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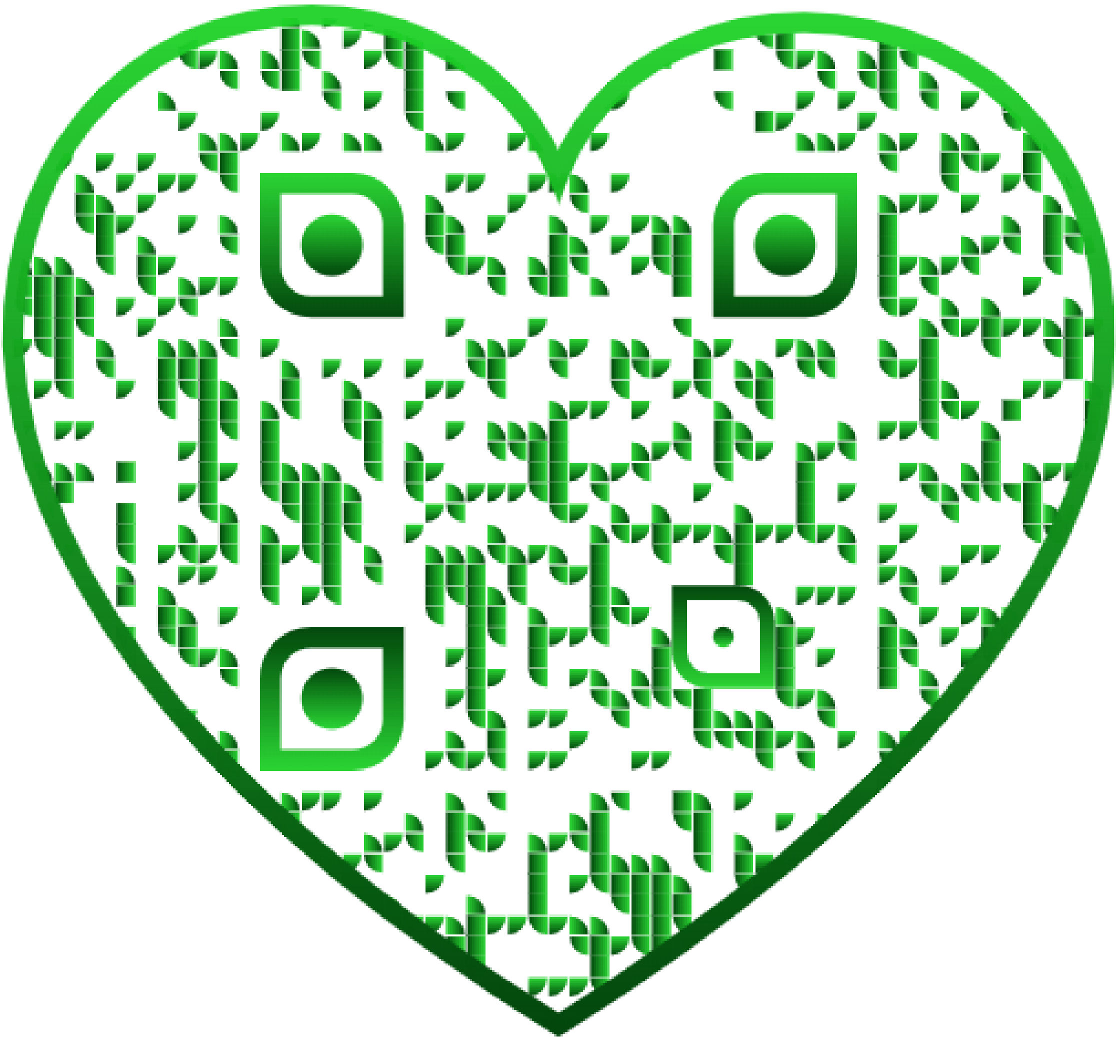

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ON PIRATES PROSPECT
BUBBA CHANDLER

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NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER

Leading Off

NOVEMBER 2025 VOLUME 45, ISSUE 12

NATIONAL LEAGUE TOP 10s

08. Time For A Change
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Assessing the future value of graduated NL prospects.

62. Cooper
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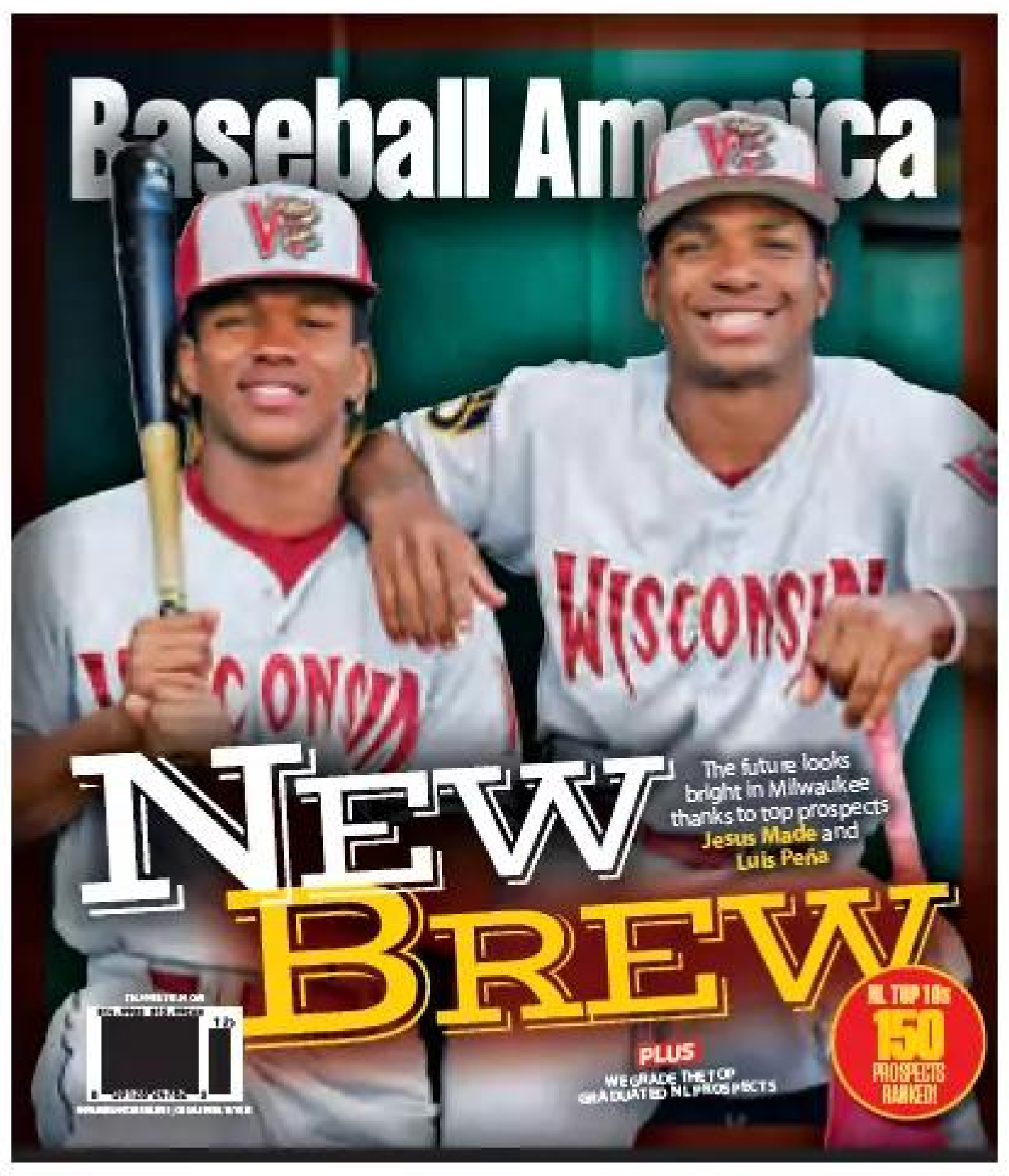
ON THE COVER

COVER PHOTO BY
MIKE JANES / FOUR SEAM IMAGES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Numbers Game

AN ANALYTICALLY INCLINED LOOK AT THE GAME

MAKING THE GRADE

Assessing the future value of graduated National League prospects

by **J.J. COOPER, MATT EDDY** *and* **GEOFF PONTES**

Future value is often in the eye of the beholder, especially when it comes to projecting the future value of prospects and young major leaguers.

That's why we asked three of our writers to identify the best bets for future success among this year's graduated National League rookies.

To do so, JJ Cooper (JJ), Matt Eddy (ME) and Geoff Pontes (GP) took part in an informal 30-pick draft. The goal was to identify players with the highest perceived peak value and likelihood of achieving it.

Eligible players are those who lost rookie status in 2025 by exceeding 130 career at-bats, 50 career innings or 45 career days of active MLB service. Big leaguers who retain rookie status in 2026, including Bubba Chandler, Bryce Eldridge and Nolan McLean, are excluded.

Each player drafted is presented with an upside role, expressed as BA Grade, a risk assessment and an adjusted grade that factors role and risk.

1. DRAKE BALDWIN

C, BRAVES
2026 AGE: 25.
Upside Role: 60 (occasional all-star C).
Risk: Mild. ***Adjusted:*** 55.

Baldwin is one of about a dozen rookie catchers to produce a three-win season at age 24 or younger in the 30-team era. The lefthanded batter did a bit of everything well, with positive indicators for contact and impact to go with near-average fielding ability. Baldwin's offensive production remained steady all season, even as he started a career-high 85 games behind the plate. (ME)

2. CADE HORTON

RHP, CUBS
2026 AGE: 24.
Upside Role: 60 (No. 3 starter).
Risk: Low. ***Adjusted:*** 55.

Horton was the Cubs' ace for much of the second half of the season before his season ended with a rib fracture. The Cubs have reason to wonder if their postseason run would have played out differently had he been healthy. Horton's mid-90s fastball, sweeper, curve and changeup give him a multitude of ways to keep hitters off-balance. (JJ)

3. CHASE BURNS

RHP, REDS
2026 AGE: 23.
Upside Role: 70 (No. 2 starter).
Risk: High. ***Adjusted:*** 55.

The Reds drafted Burns second overall in 2024 and called him up within a year. It came down to Burns or Jacob Misiorowski for this spot. Burns wins in the command department, without sacrificing swing-and-miss stuff. His velocity is elite and so is his strikeout potential. (GP)

4. JACOB MISIOROWSKI

RHP, BREWERS
2026 AGE: 24.
Upside Role: 70 (No. 2 starter).
Risk: High. ***Adjusted:*** 55.

Misiorowski averaged 99.3 mph on his fastball, making him a fraction slower than Hunter Greene as baseball's hardest-throwing starter. Misiorowski's 94 mph slider/cutter and 87 mph curveball are the fastest breaking pitches among starting pitchers and point to the reasons to be optimistic about his future in the rotation, especially as he dials in his control and command with experience. (ME)

5. MATT SHAW

3B, CUBS
2026 AGE: 24.
Upside Role: 55 (solid-average 3B).
Risk: Average. ***Adjusted:*** 45.

Shaw's rookie season started poorly enough that he was demoted to Triple-A in late April. He returned by mid May and handled third base for the remainder of the season. His pull-heavy approach showed flashes of power to go with his plus speed. Nothing about his rookie season was spectacular, but he was a league-average hitter for most of the second half of the season. He could be a solid third baseman for years to come. (JJ)

6. ROKI SASAKI

RHP, DODGERS
2026 AGE: 24.
Upside Role: 60 (No. 3 starter).
Risk: High. ***Adjusted:*** 45.

After a humbling beginning to his MLB career—24 strikeouts and 22 walks in his first 34.1 innings—Sasaki found success

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Lawlar

Sasaki

Crews (with Paul Skenes)

out of the bullpen at points during the Dodgers' 2025 World Series run. He missed four months of his rookie season with a shoulder injury but still has a chance to develop into a long-term rotation piece. (GP)

7. DYLAN CREWS

OF, NATIONALS

2026 AGE: 24.

Upside Role: 55 (first-division CF).
Risk: Average. ***Adjusted:*** 45.

While Crews has not yet lived up to his draft pedigree as the No. 2 overall pick in 2023, he has shown flashes of power, speed, on-base ability and capability in center field, where he might align best if James Wood and Daylen Lile occupy the corners in Washington. Crews showed above-average bat speed in his 2025 rookie season—one interrupted for nearly three months by an oblique injury—but he has plenty of work to do to become a productive regular. (ME)

8. CHASE DOLLANDER

RHP, ROCKIES

2026 AGE: 24.

Upside Role: 60 (No. 3 starter).
Risk: High. ***Adjusted:*** 45.

Dollander became the latest in a long line of pitchers to be devoured by Coors Field. He posted a 9.98 ERA at home, but his stuff is better than the results. Dollander's plus velocity didn't play. MLB hitters beat up his 98 mph fastball, and his plus curveball was hindered by Coors Field. The underlying pieces are here to be a solid starter, but the new Rockies regime will need to help him figure out how to adapt to altitude. (JJ)

9. DALTON RUSHING

C, DODGERS

2026 AGE: 25.

Upside Role: 55 (First-division C).
Risk: Average. ***Adjusted:*** 45.

Used sporadically throughout the year, Rushing spent nearly a full season in the majors in 2025. He showed flashes of his power-and-patience approach in his 155-plate appearance sample. If given the opportunity to play every day, Rushing could develop into a dynamic, bat-first catcher. Playing time with the Dodgers will be difficult to come by with Will Smith behind the plate and first baseman Freddie Freeman under contract through 2027. (GP)

10. JAKOB MARSEE

OF, MARLINS

2026 AGE: 25.

Upside Role: 50 (solid-average CF).
Risk: Mild. ***Adjusted:*** 45.

Marsee piqued interest by hitting 14 homers and stealing 47 bases in a four-month stretch at Triple-A. He continued to hit when the Marlins called him up in August and seized the center field job as a rookie. While Marsee may lack a true carrying tool, he does a little bit of everything well—he hits for average, takes walks, steals bases, defends and throws—and should remain a contributing player through his 20s. (ME)

THE REST OF OUR PICKS

We drafted to 30 places to highlight even more graduating NL prospects.

11. Chad Patrick, RHP, Brewers (JJ)
12. Jordan Lawlar, 3B, D-backs (GP)
13. Daylen Lile, OF, Nationals (ME)
14. Hurston Waldrep, RHP, Braves (JJ)
15. Caleb Durbin, 3B, Brewers (GP)
16. Braxton Ashcraft, RHP, Pirates (ME)
17. Cade Cavalli, RHP, Nationals (JJ)
18. Brady House, 3B, Nationals (GP)
19. Agustin Ramirez, C, Marlins (ME)
20. Kyle Karros, 3B, Rockies (JJ)
21. Isaac Collins, OF, Brewers (GP)
22. Ronny Mauricio, 3B, Mets (ME)
23. Liam Hicks, C, Marlins (JJ)
24. Thomas Saggese, 2B, Cardinals (GP)
25. AJ Smith-Shawver, RHP, Braves (ME)
26. Luis Mey, RHP, Reds (JJ)
27. Justin Wrobleski, LHP, Dodgers (GP)
28. Heriberto Hernandez, OF, Marlins (ME)
29. Javier Sanoja, 2B, Marlins (JJ)
30. Jack Dreyer, LHP, Dodgers (GP)

Drake Baldwin

G FIUME/GETTY IMAGE

From Phenom To The Farm

FORMER BALLPLAYERS REFLECT ON PRO SUCCESS AND FAILURE

FROM D-III TO MLB

Zach Lutz's unique journey took him from Alvernia to Queens

by KYLE BANDUJO

Home is where the heart is, they say. In the case of Zach Lutz, that adage was true.

In 2004, Lutz was the senior third baseman for Governor Mifflin High outside Reading, Pa., when he had to decide between prominent Division I programs such as Notre Dame, South Carolina and Stanford—and their state-of-the-art facilities and annual Omaha aspirations—or staying home to attend Division III Alvernia.

Alvernia had gone a respectable 27-17 in 2004, but the real draw was that it was coached by Zach's father Yogi.

"My mind was always set on going to play for my dad," Zach Lutz said. "That's what I had my trust in. He knew my swing better than anybody."

As an Alvernia freshman, Lutz teamed with fellow future big leaguer Anthony Recker to lead the club to a 41-6 record. He played both ways, hitting .423 and carrying a 9-0 record and 3.32 ERA on the mound.

Lutz followed with a .464 average as a sophomore and then hit .454 as a junior in 2007, when he was named D-III player of the year. The Mets drafted him in the fifth round that year.

He had never struggled in high school or college, but the jump to pro ball was different. It was apparent from his first Mets minicamp in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

"I faced some Latin kid, and he was throwing 98 miles per hour," Lutz said, "and afterward I called my dad and said, 'Dad I've got no shot.' I couldn't even see it."

Coach Lutz calmed his son, and while Zach was able to quickly correct his mindset and assert himself at the plate, his main problem was not being up there nearly as much as he would have liked.

"Most of my career was derailed by injuries, a lot of freak injuries," he Lutz.

Lutz broke a bone in his foot in his first pro game, which resulted in surgery to insert six screws into his foot. The injury bug didn't stop there.

In his minor league career, Lutz suffered multiple concussions, injuries to his hamstring and ankle and a broken ring finger via a foul ball hit into the dugout.

Because of those injuries, Lutz didn't see significant Double-A time until 2010. He proved he was up for the challenge with a .967 OPS. He followed with productive, albeit truncated, seasons at Triple-A in 2011 and '12.

Finding an opening on the Mets' major league roster proved to be more of a challenge.

"I had David Wright in front of me at third base." Lutz said. "I had Lucas Duda and Ike Davis over at first base.

"I knew I just needed to swing the bat (if) they were going to find a spot for me."

CHRIS TROTMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Zach Lutz earned Division III player of the year honors in 2007, the year the Mets drafted him. He reached the majors briefly with New York, but a series of injuries undercut his potential.

Lutz received his first callup in late April 2012 to replace the injured Jason Bay. He appeared in 22 games for the Mets in 2012 and '13 but struggled to break through. He went 7-for-31 (.226) with two doubles, six walks and 11 strikeouts in 22 games.

Lutz spent his later years searching for an opportunity to keep hitting. He played in both Japan and Korea. He played winter ball in the Dominican Republic. He spent time in the independent Atlantic League.

He retired following the 2017 season, still able to hit, but unable to keep up with the physical day-in, day-out demands of professional baseball.

Lutz's on-field results in pro ball, not to mention big league service time, gave him the satisfaction that he was built for his unique journey.

"You get drafted out of a Division III school and thrown into pro ball, it's a completely different world," Lutz said. "You've gotta be mentally tough to get through that, and that's how it was." ■

LISTEN NOW!

Scan the QR code to listen to Zach Lutz on the "From Phenom To The Farm" podcast

Trap Toon *by* PAUL TRAP

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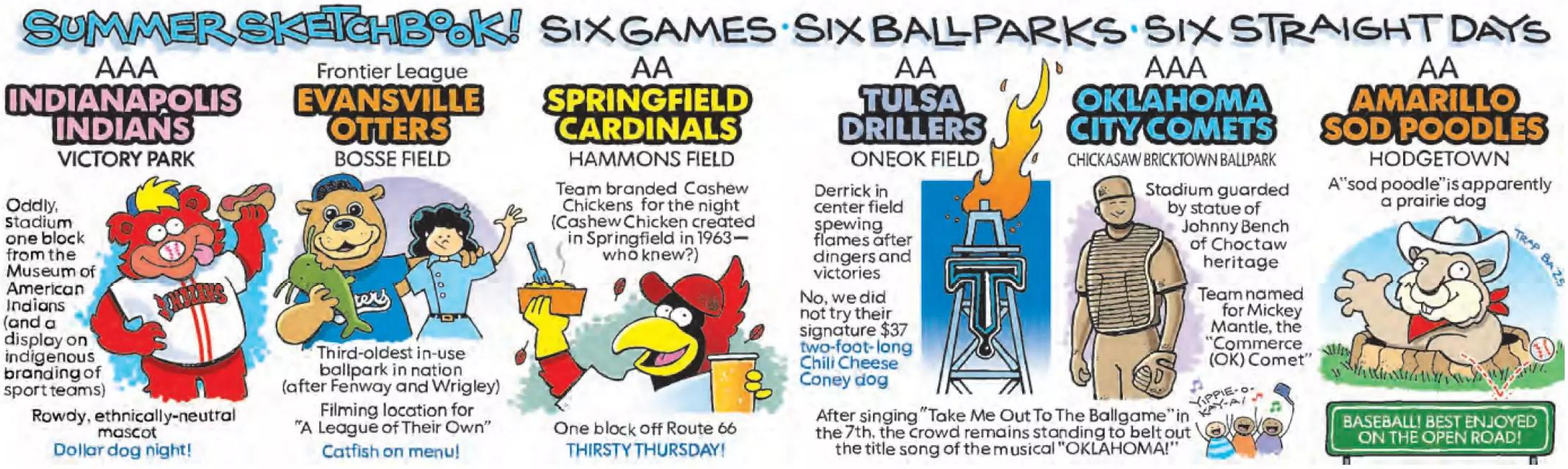
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AAA
INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS
VICTORY PARK
Oddly, stadium one block from the Museum of American Indians (and a display on indigenous branding of sport teams)
Rowdy, ethnically-neutral mascot
Dollar dog night!
Frontier League
EVANSVILLE OTTERS
BOSSE FIELD
Third-oldest in-use ballpark in nation (after Fenway and Wrigley)
Filming location for "A League of Their Own"
Catfish on menu!
AA
SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS
HAMMONS FIELD
Team branded Cashew Chickens for the night (Cashew Chicken created in Springfield in 1963—who knew?)
One block off Route 66
THIRSTY THURSDAY!
AA
TULSA DRILLERS
ONEOK FIELD
Derrick in center field spewing flames after dingers and victories
No, we did not try their signature $37 two-foot-long Chili Cheese Coney dog
AAA
OKLAHOMA CITY COMETS
CHICKASAW BRICKTOWN BALLPARK
Stadium guarded by statue of Johnny Bench of Choctaw heritage
Team named for Mickey Mantle, the "Commerce (OK) Comet"
After singing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" in the 7th, the crowd remains standing to belt out the title song of the musical "OKLAHOMA!"
YIPPIE-O-KAY-A!
AA
AMARILLO SOD POODLES
HODGETOWN
A "sod poodle" is apparently a prairie dog
TRAP BA 25
BASEBALL! BEST ENJOYED ON THE OPEN ROAD!

First Pitch

MAKING SENSE OF SOMETIMES DENSE ANALYTICS IN BASEBALL

Astros outfielder Zach Cole used improved raw power to get the most out of his batted-ball events. He made his MLB debut in September.

BIBERSTEIN/ICON SPORTSWIRE VIA GETTY IMAGES

POWERING UP

Prospects with big 90th percentile exit velocity gains in 2025

by **GEOFF PONTES**

Hitting the ball harder creates better results. It also tends to create more power, which is one of the most important areas where a prospect can improve.

While exit velocity gains in the major leagues are typically minimal, prospects at all levels of the minor leagues make considerable power jumps each season. Being able to identify these improvements and explain them with data is important.

With that in mind, we highlight 25 players who saw substantial gains in 90th percentile exit velocity in 2025 when compared to 2024.

It's important to note the majority of these players competed in the Rookie complex leagues or lower levels this season. That's not surprising considering these levels are typically where young hitters see the most growth.

To qualify, players needed to have a minimum of 80 batted-ball events in each of the last two seasons.

Key Takeaways

■ The first thing that jumps out looking at the data is the organizations that saw the most EV gainers. The Red Sox and Brewers each boast three, followed by the Rangers, Astros and Cardinals with two apiece. The Giants also have two, but **Drew Gilbert** (+4.9 mph) was a trade deadline acquisition. In the same vein, **Jorge Quintana** (+6.4) was acquired by the Padres at the deadline from the Brewers. This means the Brewers technically had *four* prospects on this list. As much credit as they get for pitching development, Milwaukee also has something brewing on the hitting side.

■ While **Enddy Azocar** (+7.4) struggled with the move to Low-A Salem—a notoriously difficult run environment—he still managed to raise his isolated slugging threefold between his pro debut in the Dominican Summer League in 2024 and his 71-game sample in the Carolina League this year.

■ Success did not follow Diamondbacks shortstop **Eliesbert Alejos** (+7.3) this season. He hit .241/.315/.302 in the ACL while making his U.S. debut following two seasons in the DSL. While Alejos' gains were notable, his power went from 20-grade raw to 40-grade raw for his age and level. That simply isn't enough to improve a player's BABIP substantially.

■ Padres trade deadline acquisition **Jorge Quintana** (+6.4) made a serious EV jump, and it was noticeable in his U.S. debut. The shortstop hit .264/.349/.403 with three home runs over 50 ACL games. He's still hitting a lot of grounders, so improved bat path and angles could lead to more airborne contact in the coming seasons. Quintana is a name to keep an eye on in 2026.

■ Rangers outfielder **Deward Tovar** (+6.1) spent all of 2023 and 2024 in the DSL before making the jump to the U.S. in 2025. He saw a tremendous improvement in power and production this year and hit .312/.412/.496 across 40 games between the ACL and Low-A Hickory. His slugging percentage climbed more than 100 points from the 2024 DSL to 2025 ACL. Tovar is the perfect example of what improved power can produce.

■ Astros outfielder **Zach Cole** (+4.7) made his MLB debut late in the 2025 season. He has always shown plus power, but his contact quality also went to a new level. His 109.9 mph 90th percentile EV is among the best in baseball, and he shows true 80-grade raw power. Despite heavy swing-and-miss in his profile, he makes the most out of the contact he does make.

■ The Brewers' **Luis Peña** (+4.3) was one of the top breakout prospects in 2025. While he's long had plate skills, the added power in his second pro season saw him skyrocket up prospect lists to be considered one of the best bat-first players currently in the minor leagues. Added power helped him make that leap.

90th PERCENTILE EXIT VELOCITY GAINERS

Minimum 80 balls in play in both 2024 and 2025

Player, Pos	Org	Age	2024 90 EV	2025 90 EV	Change
Enddy Azocar	Red Sox	18.3	98.0	105.4	+7.4
Eliesbert Alejos	D-backs	19.1	91.9	99.2	+7.3
Jorge Quintana	Padres	18.2	97.7	104.1	+6.4
Richard Matic	Yankees	17.9	97.6	103.8	+6.2
Brandon Butterworth	Orioles	22.8	96.4	102.8	+6.4
Deward Tovar	Rangers	19.2	100.8	106.9	+6.1
John Cruz	Marlins	19.8	96.5	102.5	+6.0
Cristofer Lebron	Cardinals	18.3	96.6	102.3	+5.7
Jurdrick Profar	White Sox	18.2	96.0	101.9	+5.9
Engel Paulino	Brewers	18.6	97.3	102.9	+5.6
Frederi Montero	Brewers	18.5	98.1	103.5	+5.4
Andres Nolaya	Orioles	20.3	99.1	104.5	+5.4
Phillip Sikes	Red Sox	26.2	101.0	106.3	+5.3
Paulino Santana	Rangers	18.6	98.4	103.7	+5.3
Brock Rodden	Mariners	25.1	99.3	104.5	+5.2
Jeremy Rivas	Cardinals	22.3	97.8	102.9	+5.1
Hector Salas	Astros	21.3	97.0	102.1	+5.1
Zach Cole	Astros	24.9	105.2	109.9	+4.7
Drew Gilbert	Giants	24.8	100.7	105.6	+4.9
Brady House	Nationals	22.1	104.3	108.8	+4.5
Luis Peña	Brewers	18.6	99.9	104.2	+4.3
Mikey Romero	Red Sox	21.5	102.4	106.7	+4.3
Luis De La Cruz	Guardians	18.8	98.5	103.3	+4.8
Carlos Concepcion	Giants	19.5	101.0	105.6	+4.6
Moises Bolivar	Dodgers	18.0	99.5	104.3	+4.8

TOP 10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ADJUSTING WITH THE TIMES

BA Grades receive an updated prospect risk assessment scale

by JJ COOPER

When we rolled out BA Grades in 2012, we described the addition as the biggest change to the Prospect Handbook since we first published the book in 2001.

Now, it's time for a refresh.

This year, we're making the biggest tweak to the process since BA Grades debuted.

Details will follow in a moment, but to summarize our goal: We're trying to reset the baseline for how we account for risk to more accurately reflect what we are attempting to convey.

We casually refer to them as "BA Grades," but in reality our grades have always had two vital components: a future role grade and the likelihood of achieving that grade.

The number component is an attempt to summarize the likely projected role of a prospect on the familiar 20-80 scouting scale.

- An 80 player is one we expect to see in Cooperstown one day.
- A 70 is one of the best players in the game and someone who may reach the Hall of Fame.
- A 60 is a top-tier regular who likely makes All-Star Game appearances.
- A 50 is a solid regular for a competitive team and someone who would not look out of place in a postseason lineup.
- A 45 is a regular for a second-division team or one with a smaller role on a competitor.
- A 40 is an MLB role player.

A role grade paints a picture of a player's upside, but it does not account for the likelihood of that upside being achieved.

Risk assessment is crucial when comparing, for example, a tooled-up Dominican Summer League star with a Triple-A player ready to contribute. Or when comparing a position player to a pitcher. Or when comparing a player who missed a year to injury with one who has a long track record of good health.

When BA Grades were introduced in 2012, we settled on "high" as the baseline risk for all players, because, well, prospects carry high risk when compared with major leaguers.

In that scheme, players who were recent draftees or productive Class A players with tools or even players with more modest tools but who had performed at the upper levels were assessed as having high risk.

Players with glaring flaws or significant injury issues were assigned extreme risk. Some of the most well-rounded prospects with tools and upper-levels production were medium risk.

In many ways, that is accurate. It was our attempt to spell out just how difficult it is for even solid prospects to turn into MLB regulars. Prospects by their very nature are risky.

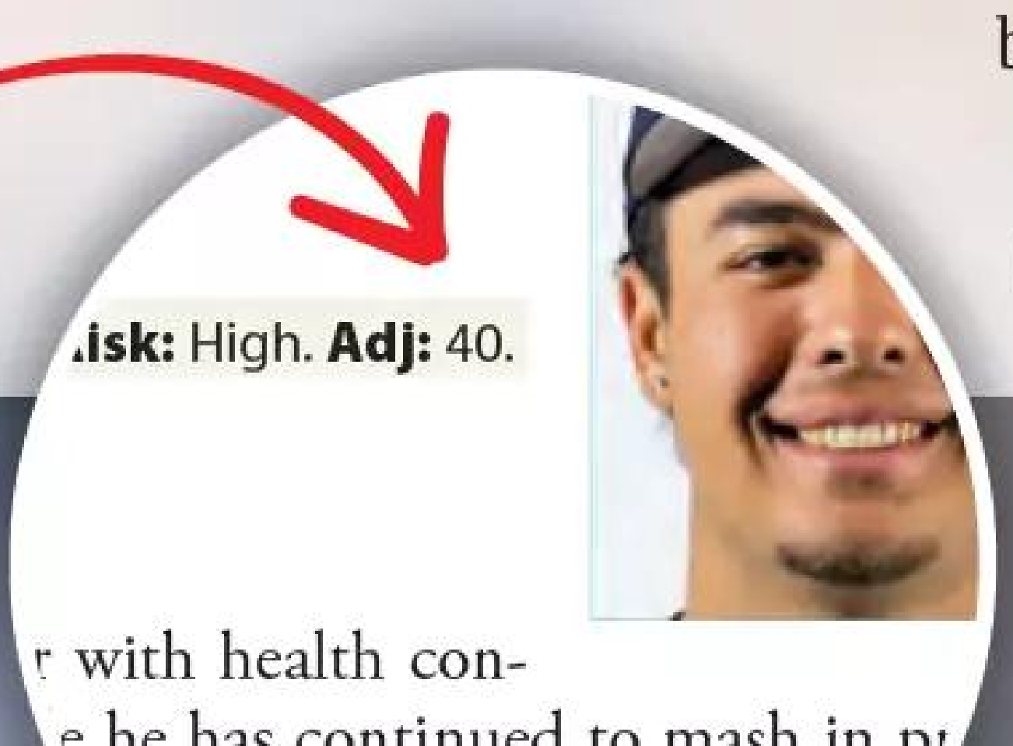
But it also wasn't what we wanted to fully convey. Those prospects deemed high risk weren't riskier than the average prospect. They were just risky, like all prospects.

So this year, we are resetting and restating the baseline for risk.

In the past, I have used 50/High—50 role grade, high risk—as a baseline for the run-of-the-mill solid prospects we rank. This year, those will be 50/Average prospects.

By changing our baseline risk grade to average, rather than

ADJUSTED GRADES ARE INCLUDED FOR ALL PLAYERS UNDER "ADJ"



isk: High. **Adj:** 40.

with health con-

e he has continued to mash in p

Prized shortstops Konnor Griffin of the Pirates, Jesus Made of the Brewers and JJ Wetherholt of the Cardinals (clockwise from top).

KEY TO PITCH TYPES IN TOP 10 RANKINGS

FB: four-seam plus two-seam fastball, as applicable
CB: curveball
SL: slider
CH: changeup
CT: cutter
SW: sweeper
SP: splitter
CTL: control

high, we hope to better convey how a prospect compares to other top prospects.

All prospects are risky, but a prospect with average risk is one who is not particularly risky when compared to *other prospects*.

The Baseball America risk scale for 2026 now looks like this:

- Low risk: A player who is close to the majors, typically with little or no projection remaining and no pressing injury questions. He has a high probability of having a major league career in some capacity.
- Mild risk: A player with some work left to refine his skills and one who typically comes with upper minors performance.
- Average risk: The most common risk level for players ranked among an organization's top 30 prospects. The typical prospect has significant risk or weakness in some area of his game.
- High risk: This is for players with injury questions or who struggle with a key skill, especially control for pitchers or contact for hitter. Also, many teenagers in the low minors with significant projection remaining fit here.
- Extreme risk: Players who have well above-average durability issues or multiple skills or tools issues to resolve. Inexperienced teenagers also may fit here.

Internally, we have always fused the BA Grade and risk together into what we call an adjusted grade. For the first time, we are printing those adjusted BA Grades.

It is a point-deduction system in increments of five. Here's how it affects BA Grades:

Low	No penalty
Mild	–5 points
Average	–10 points
High	–15 points
Extreme	–20 points

Adjusted grades are designed to capture how different player types with different levels of experience can line up on an ordinal ranking.

A 40/Low carries the same adjusted grade of 40 as a 45/Mild or a 50/Average or a 55/High or a 60/Extreme.

For the first time, adjusted grades appear with BA prospect rankings.

For those who chase upside and are tolerant of risk, the 60/Extreme prospect who sits four spots behind a 50/Average may be preferable. For those who don't want to be burned by the siren song of potential, the 45/Mild prospect may appear to be the better bet.

Top 100 Prospects can be counted on to carry an adjusted BA Grade of 45 or better.

Conversely, a farm system full of players with an adjusted grade of 35 or lower is either full of unproven, faraway prospects or low-ceiling role players—or some mixture of the two.

This is a big adjustment for BA, and we have some concern that we're changing a system that we have maintained for more than a decade. Its roots trace back to the prospect days of Mike Trout, Bryce Harper and Nolan Arenado.

But we don't want to let a reverence for history or tradition prevent us from making improvements. We always want to be striving to improve, and we hope this takes us forward. ■

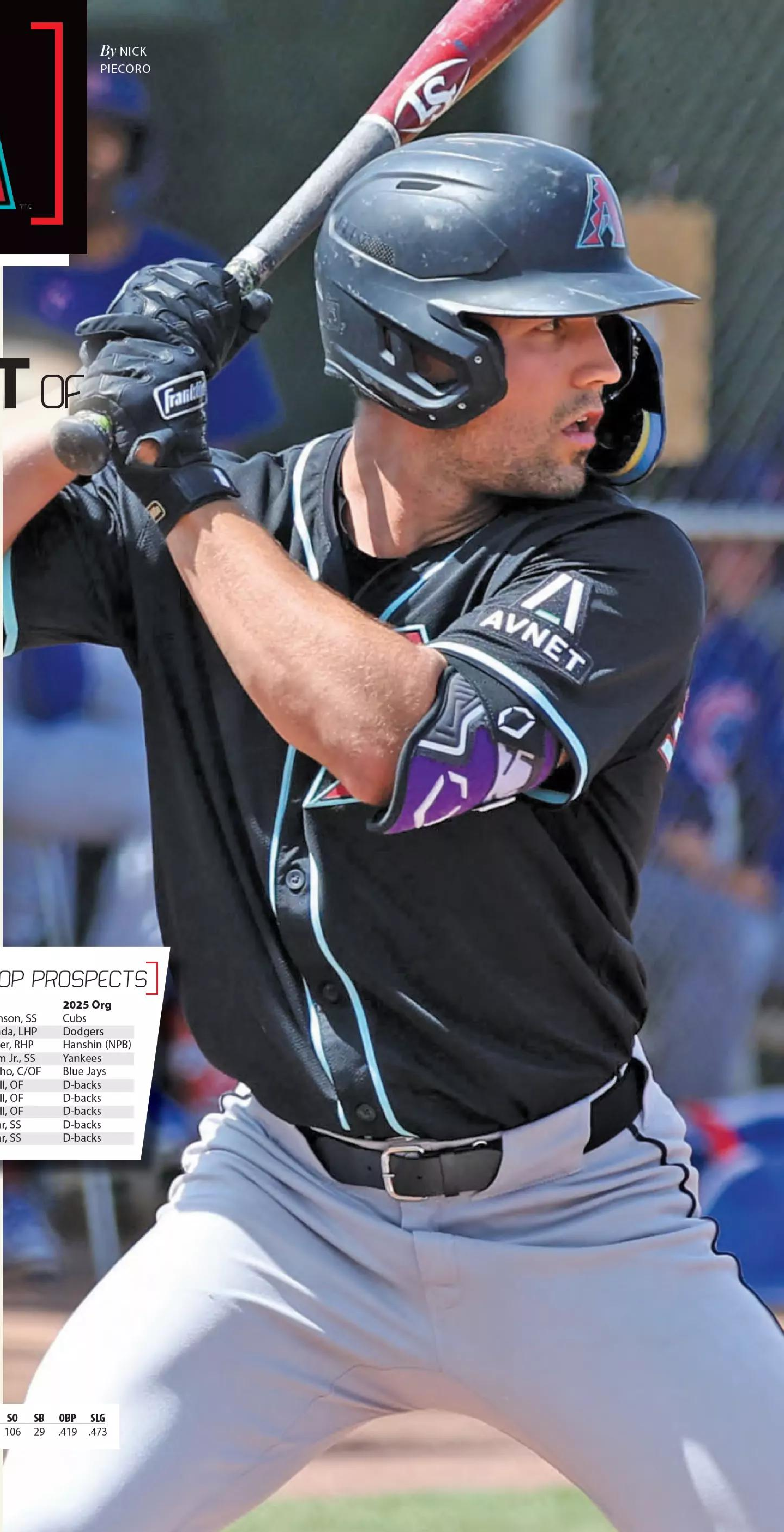
ALSO NEW FOR 2026:
WE NOW FACTOR MLB ACTIVE SERVICE WHEN DETERMINING PROSPECT ELIGIBILITY

More on Page 62

TOM DIPACE (WETHERHOLT), MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (MADE, GRIFFIN)

TOP 10

By NICK PIECORO



1 RYAN WALDSCHMIDT OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: October 7, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 205.
Drafted: Kentucky, 2024 (1st round supplemental).
Signed by: Jeremy Kehrt.

TRACK RECORD: Lightly recruited out of high school in Bradenton, Fla., Waldschmidt started his college career at Charleston Southern before transferring to Kentucky, where he was a two-year starter. He turned in a strong junior year, hitting .333 with a 1.079 OPS and 14 home runs in 59 games. That performance came on the heels of a devastating injury suffered the previous summer in the Cape Cod League, where Waldschmidt blew out his left knee while making a play on a ball hit to left field. The injury ultimately required ACL surgery. The Diamondbacks saw no ill effects from the injury the following spring and were impressed by the quality of his at-bats, the consistency of his performance and his hard-working, energetic approach to the game. Using the Prospect Promotion Incentive pick they were awarded when Corbin Carroll took home National League Rookie of the Year honors in 2023, the D-backs selected Waldschmidt at No. 31 overall and signed him for $2.9 million. He more than lived up to expectations in his first full season, hitting a combined .289 with 18 homers and nearly as many walks (96) as strikeouts (106) in a year split between High-A Hillsboro and Double-A Amarillo.

SCOUTING REPORT: Waldschmidt has a wide base and barely strides with a minimal load, generating an aggressive but controlled, low-maintenance swing. He is extremely discerning when it comes to how often he swings. Not only did he run just a 15.7% chase rate in 2025, but he often opted not to swing at strikes that he perceived to be pitchers' pitches. That selectivity led to long, grinding at-bats, many of which began 0-2 or 1-2 but ended with a full count. He enters his at-bats with a good plan and stays committed to it. He has a steep bat path in which he is in and out of the zone quickly, leaving him with little margin for error. The uphill nature of his swing is a concern to some evaluators, who believe he will need to flatten it out or risk being exposed by tough righthanders. Others see it as less of an issue, trusting in his ability to hunt the pitches he will be able to get in the air. His build is more strong and sturdy than fluid and graceful, but he moves well enough and is an above-average runner underway. He surprised some in the organization with how competent he was in center field but likely will profile better on an outfield corner, particularly with the D-backs, who have a strong collection of center fielders. He has an average arm.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Dansby Swanson, SS	Cubs
2017	Anthony Banda, LHP	Dodgers
2018	Jon Duplantier, RHP	Hanshin (NPB)
2019	Jazz Chisholm Jr., SS	Yankees
2020	Daulton Varsho, C/OF	Blue Jays
2021	Corbin Carroll, OF	D-backs
2022	Corbin Carroll, OF	D-backs
2023	Corbin Carroll, OF	D-backs
2024	Jordan Lawlar, SS	D-backs
2025	Jordan Lawlar, SS	D-backs

THE FUTURE: Waldschmidt's year was impressive enough that club executives are talking about him as part of the 2026 outfield mix in Arizona. With left fielder Lourdes Gurriel Jr. expected to miss the first half of the year following knee surgery, Waldschmidt could come to camp with a chance to win a job on the Opening Day roster. It is more likely he starts in the minors, but he could force his way to the big leagues sometime during the year.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.289	134	484	114	140	27	4	18	78	96	106	29	.419	.473

2 KAYSON **CUNNINGHAM** SS

HIT: 60. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: June 25, 2006. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 182.
Drafted: HS—San Antonio, TX, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Justin Seely.

TRACK RECORD: Cunningham was widely regarded as the best pure hitter among high schoolers in the 2025 draft. He also had another credit to his name: In a prep class loaded with shortstops, he was the starter at the position for Team USA in the 18U World Cup qualifier in Panama the summer before his senior year. Because Cunningham fit the profile of many recent Diamondbacks draft picks—undersized frame, lefthanded hitter, strong contact skills, plays an up-the-middle position—it was no surprise when Arizona drafted him at No. 18 overall then bought him out of his Texas commitment with a $4.58 million bonus.

SCOUTING REPORT: Cunningham has a quick, efficient swing and excellent barrel control. He rarely swings and misses, recognizes balls from strikes and has shown average power, though some evaluators aren't confident the pop will get to that level in pro ball. While he can occasionally leave the yard to his pull side, he routinely sprays line drives to the gaps. Cunningham's hands, instincts and range, as well as his ability to make different types of throws, gave the D-backs confidence that he could remain at shortstop. Things seemed to be moving fast for him defensively in his 11-game pro debut for Low-A Visalia, but the organization plans to give him every chance to stick at the position. Some scouts who saw him post-draft wrote him up as a second baseman.

THE FUTURE: Cunningham's bat should play just about anywhere. D-backs evaluators saw shades of Kevin McGonigle in his game with his adaptable, contact-oriented, high-average swing along with a high probability to stick at an up-the-middle position. If he hits as expected, he should be an everyday player who fits anywhere in the top half of a lineup.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Visalia (CAL)	A	.255	11	47	2	12	1	0	0	4	3	15	1	.308	.277

3 DEMETRIO **CRISANTES** 2B

HIT: 60. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 45. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: September 5, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 178.
Drafted: HS—Nogales, AZ, 2022 (7th round). **Signed by:** Mark Ross.

TRACK RECORD: Crisantes has been known as a prolific hitter with health concerns going back to his high school days in Nogales, Ariz. While he has continued to mash in pro ball, he also has continued to have trouble staying healthy. Crisantes required Tommy John surgery at age 15, followed by a revision TJ shortly after being drafted in the seventh round in 2022. He burst on the scene in 2024, when he hit .341 and compiled a 57-game on-base streak between the Arizona Complex League and Low-A Visalia. Just 34 games into his 2025 season at High-A Hillsboro, Crisantes needed surgery to repair a posterior labral tear in his left shoulder, costing him the remainder of the year. He had a .902 OPS in his final 20 Northwest League games prior to injuring his shoulder on a swing in mid May.

SCOUTING REPORT: Crisantes has a simple, repeatable swing that allows him to generate hard contact at good angles. Though the raw thump he produces isn't plus, his tight launch angle distribution suggests a hitter who can maximize the power he has at his disposal. He rarely swings and misses and showed an improved approach in 2025 before his injury. Scouting looks were limited during his abbreviated season, but evaluators and D-backs officials said Crisantes' defensive play at second base has improved. His arm remains below-average but most see the total defensive package as good enough—assuming that he provides above-average production at the plate. He is a fringe-average runner.

THE FUTURE: Crisantes likely starts 2026 in Double-A and could move quickly from there. With Ketel Marte entrenched at second base, Crisantes might need a position change—potentially even to first base—to find his way to regular at-bats in the majors. First and foremost, he will need to get—and stay—healthy.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Hillsboro (NWL)	A+	.252	34	123	18	31	8	0	4	29	21	19	6	.358	.415

4 SLADE **CALDWELL** OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 40. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 60. **ARM:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: June 18, 2006. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 5-9. **WT:** 182.
Drafted: HS—Jonesboro, AR, 2024 (1st round). **Signed by:** Nate Birtwell.

TRACK RECORD: One of the better hitters on the showcase circuit the summer before his senior year, Caldwell went off the board with the 29th pick in the 2024 draft. The Diamondbacks made the Arkansas prep the latest in a series of undersized position players they have selected high in the draft during the Mike Hazen era. The club signed Caldwell away from a Mississippi commitment with a $3.087 million bonus. In his first full season as a pro in 2025, Caldwell torched the Low-A California League through 48 games but initially struggled after an aggressive promotion to High-A. He and the Pirates' Konnor Griffin were the first 2024 preps to advance past Low-A.

SCOUTING REPORT: Caldwell's swing is short and compact by virtue of his short levers. He makes a lot of contact, though his swing can appear pushy or slappy, leading most scouts to project fringe-average power at peak. He has elite zone awareness with a 15% chase rate but appeared too passive at times, raising questions about whether his high walk rate was the result of him gaming the system against low-level pitchers. It also might have led to a higher strikeout rate as he occasionally took hittable pitches early in counts. Still, Caldwell has the look of a potential top-of-the lineup on-base machine. He has plus speed, though is not yet a good basestealer. Evaluators were split on his defense, some seeing an average center fielder, others landing on plus. Caldwell is adored for the way he plays the game. Instinctual, gritty and tough, he routinely makes plays that help his team win.

THE FUTURE: Caldwell's hitting approach, speed and defense give him a high floor, but how much he hits—and for how much impact—will determine his future value. Even if his pure production is light, team officials believe his baseball IQ and tenacity will fit well as part of a winning core.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Minors (2 teams)	A,A+	.260	114	407	83	106	29	3	3	38	91	138	25	.408	.369

Demetrio Crisantes

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Demetrio Crisantes
Best Power Hitter	Yassel Soler
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Ryan Waldschmidt
Fastest Baserunner	Druw Jones
Best Athlete	Druw Jones

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Patrick Forbes
Best Curveball	David Hagaman
Best Slider	Daniel Eagen
Best Changeup	Dylan Ray
Best Control	Mitch Bratt

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Carlos Virahonda
Best Defensive Infielder	Cristofer Torin
Best Infield Arm	Cristofer Torin
Best Defensive Outfielder	Druw Jones
Best Outfield Arm	Druw Jones

5 DAVID **HAGAMAN** RHP

FB: 60. **CB:** 60. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: April 16, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 215.
Drafted: West Virginia, 2024 (4th round). **Signed by:** Chris Collias (Rangers).

TRACK RECORD: Hagaman redshirted his freshman year at West Virginia then worked mostly in relief each of the next two years before going down with an elbow injury in April 2024. He had Tommy John surgery a month later. Despite that, the Rangers drafted him in the fourth round and signed him for $515,000. Hagaman was eight outings into his return to the mound when he was traded to the Diamondbacks in July 2025 as part of the Merrill Kelly trade. Seen at the time as the third piece in the deal, trailing Kohl Drake and Mitch Bratt, he emerged as arguably the most electric arm in the D-backs' system.

SCOUTING REPORT: Hagaman has had loud stuff dating back at least to college, but he not only took it up a notch in 2025, he also paired it with a newfound ability to pump quality strikes. His fastball averaged 94 mph with 18 inches of carry and came at hitters from an elite extension of seven feet. He topped out in the 97-98 mph range, but evaluators said they wouldn't be surprised if he eventually sat in the upper 90s. Hagaman's curveball is hard, up to 86 mph, but maintains consistent depth. His mid-80s changeup has late movement like a hard sinker. He also throws a slider that is at least average. He attacked hitters and showed no fear of being in the zone. The 6-foot-4 righthander has a loose, stable delivery that allows him to get down the mound with ease.

THE FUTURE: Hagaman did not throw more than five innings or 65 pitches in an outing in 2025, so he will need to show he can maintain both his caliber of stuff as well as the same quality and quantity of strikes over a full season. If he can, the D-backs might have landed another building block for their rotation.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (3 teams)	Rk,A,A+	1	1	2.98	13	13	42	26	3	10	55	0.6	6.1	33.7	0.85

BILL MITCHELL (WALDSCHMIDT), DAVID DUROCHIK/DIAMOND IMAGES VIA GETTY IMAGES (CRISANTES)

6 DANIEL EAGEN RHP

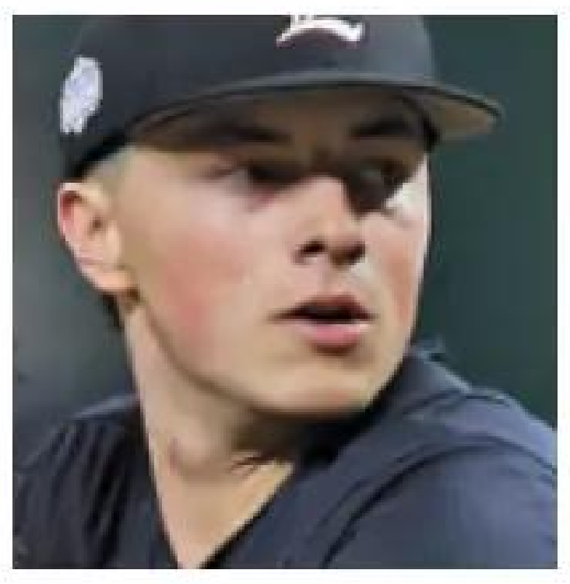
FB: 50. **CB:** 60. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 45. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: November 23, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 205.
Drafted: Presbyterian, 2024 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Jaren Shelby.

TRACK RECORD: Eagen has dealt with adversity since childhood. He needed surgery at age 4 to remove a cancerous brain tumor. He is now cancer-free. After a dominant 2024 season in which Eagen earned Big South Conference pitcher of the year honors, the Diamondbacks made him the highest-drafted player in Presbyterian history as a third-round pick. Eagen wasted no time delivering on his potential. He carved up the Northwest League for High-A Hillsboro in 2025, logging four double-digit strikeout outings, before a late-season promotion to Double-A, where he struggled in hitter-friendly Amarillo.
SCOUTING REPORT: Eagen checks all the boxes for a future starting pitcher. He has a strong, 6-foot-4 frame, a simple, repeatable delivery and a repertoire that looks like it should translate to the major leagues. His fastball sits at 93 mph and topped at 96 with nearly 20 inches of carry. His two breaking balls are both at least above-average. His big, 82 mph downer curveball had a 42% whiff rate, while his gyro slider—which at 86 mph sat between the heater and curve—got whiffs at a 54% clip. His split changeup remains a work in progress and was expected to be a focus for him in the offseason. Eagen is a good competitor and worker who takes his game-planning and prep work seriously.
THE FUTURE: Eagen should reach the majors as a starter, but whether he remains in that role could depend on any number of factors, including whether his stuff improves, his repertoire becomes deeper and how he commands his arsenal. He could have the ceiling of a No. 4 starter, though his stuff would profile in a late-inning role. Either way he is looking like a nice scouting and player development success story for the organization.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	7	8	2.99	23	23	117	79	12	52	153	0.9	11.0	32.4	1.12

7 PATRICK FORBES RHP



FB: 70. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 45. **CTL:** 40. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: December 24, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 220.
Drafted: Louisville, 2025 (1st round supplemental). **Signed by:** Christian Beal.

TRACK RECORD: Kentucky's Mr. Baseball in 2022, Forbes was a star shortstop at Bowling Green High but went undrafted in part because of his strong commitment to Louisville. A two-way player as a college freshman, he scaled back to pitching full-time during his sophomore year. A year later, in 2025, his draft stock skyrocketed after a dominant first month of the season, but he saw his control take a step back later in the year. He also dealt with a flexor injury. The Diamondbacks, betting on his premium athleticism allowing him to reach his high ceiling, drafted Forbes with the 31st overall pick and signed him for $3 million. He did not play in official games after the draft.
SCOUTING REPORT: Forbes unleashes an explosive fastball from a low release point. He averages 95-96 mph with the pitch, topping out in triple digits, generating both ride and run. He used it well at the top of the zone at Louisville. Forbes has a sweepy slider with good horizontal movement, a pitch with late break that holds the fastball tunnel well. The D-backs are hoping to develop both a gyro slider and a changeup to round out his arsenal. Forbes' command came and went at times at Louisville, with too many noncompetitive pitches over multi-batter stretches. He walked 10.7% of batters as a college junior. That represented an improvement over previous seasons, when he worked primarily in relief.
THE FUTURE: With a limited arsenal and a history of control issues, Forbes has obvious reliever risk. But given his high-end athleticism and newness to pitching, the D-backs are hoping he can make the same sort of development strides as Ryne Nelson, another successful two-way player the club drafted out of college. If he does, he could have at least midrotation upside.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	20	Did not play															

8 JD DIX 2B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 40. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: October 12, 2005. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 180.
Drafted: HS—Whitefish Bay, WI, 2024 (1st round supplemental). **Signed by:** Nate Birtwell.

TRACK RECORD: A well-regarded high school player in Whitefish Bay, Wis., Dix saw his draft stock slip in 2024 due to a shoulder injury that ultimately required surgery for a torn labrum. The Diamondbacks, who liked him before the injury, drafted him anyway with the 35th overall pick with the hope that he fully recovers from the procedure. So far, that hasn't happened, but with his first full pro season under his belt, Dix looks intriguing anyway as an athletic, hitterish and hard-nosed player. He began 2025 in the Arizona Complex League before moving up to Low-A Visalia at the end of June.
SCOUTING REPORT: The switch-hitting Dix has pure, natural swings from both sides of the plate. He offsets long levers with good bat speed and solid bat-to-ball ability. His production in 2025 was just fair, but he has a strong hit tool foundation with few red flags. He sees and handles fastballs and offspeeds well, isn't too passive or aggressive, uses the whole field and doesn't hit too many balls on the ground. Those are the sort of attributes that, assuming Dix adds strength to his athletic-looking frame, suggest at least an above-average hitter with average power, if not more. His arm remains a concern. Some think it is fringy but playable at second base, others say it will force a position change, either to first base or the outfield. Dix is a good runner who stole 28 bases in 89 games in 2025. A confident and instinctual player, he is a gamer who makes winning plays.
THE FUTURE: Dix is an athletic, projectable player with a wide range of possible outcomes. If his arm improves, perhaps he becomes an offensive-minded second baseman. If not, his bat could still play at either first base, left field or even in center field, where some think his speed could give him plus range.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.297	89	340	65	101	19	6	2	34	58	85	28	.404	.406

Baseball America
TOP 10 PROSPECTS
PHOENIX RISING

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP
NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Corbin Burnes	34
No. 2 Starter	Ryne Nelson	31
No. 3 Starter	David Hagaman	26
No. 4 Starter	Brandon Pfaadt	30
No. 5 Starter	Daniel Eagen	26
Closer	Justin Martinez	27

Catcher	Gabriel Moreno	29
First Base	Demetrio Crisantes	24
Second Base	Kayson Cunningham	23
Third Base	Jordan Lawlar	26
Shortstop	Geraldo Perdomo	29
Left Field	Ryan Waldschmidt	26
Center Field	Slade Caldwell	23
Right Field	**Corbin Carroll**	28
Designated Hitter	Ketel Marte	35

9 TOMMY TROY 2B/OF

HIT: 50. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 35.

Born: January 17, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 197.
Drafted: Stanford, 2023 (1st round). **Signed by:** Andrew Allen.

TRACK RECORD: After a three-year career at Stanford in which Troy showed improvement every season, the Diamondbacks drafted him 12th overall in 2023 and signed him for $4.4 million. He had a disappointing first full season in which he dealt with groin and hamstring injuries, then let a slow start put him in a bad head space, causing him to press to get his numbers right. Instead, his struggles continued. He regrouped in 2025, taking far better at-bats and making better contact, primarily for Double-A Amarillo, and he looked more at home at second base than he did at shortstop in 2024.
SCOUTING REPORT: Troy has a compact righthanded swing with tight movements and fast hands. He made improvements across the board from 2024, cutting his chase rate, working more walks and making harder contact to spray line drives to all fields. He can struggle with righthanded spin on the outer half. Troy also has not looked like an impact bat, though his combination of raw power, pitch recognition and bat-to-ball ability suggest more power could be in the tank if he can do things like hit fewer ground balls or hit to his pull side more effectively. Troy looked capable of being a solid defender at second base, though he made enough mistakes that some wonder if his best fit might be in the outfield. In addition to second base, he played 20 games in center field, mostly while with Triple-A Reno. His plus speed raises his defensive floor as an outfielder.
THE FUTURE: Troy still has some steps to take to reach his ceiling as a solid everyday regular, but he made significant progress on both sides of the ball in 2025. Where he best fits defensively and how much impact he provides remain up for debate. His floor could be as an offensive-minded utility player.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	23	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.289	125	499	79	144	28	4	15	66	67	98	24	.382	.451

10 CRISTOFER TORIN SS

HIT: 55. **POW:** 30. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 60. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 35.

Born: May 26, 2005. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 175.
Signed: Venezuela, 2022. **Signed by:** Cesar Geronimo/Didimo Bracho.

TRACK RECORD: When he signed out of Venezuela for $240,000 in January 2022, Torin was an advanced defender whose actions in the field were reminiscent of Javier Baez, who happened to be his favorite player as a kid. Torin is still regarded as a strong defender and a likely shortstop by most, but he also has shown a knack for putting together tough at-bats, making contact and making winning plays. After a rough season at the plate for Low-A Visalia in 2024, he bounced back in 2025, hitting .291, primarily for High-A Hillsboro, while adding nearly 50 points in slugging despite playing at a higher level.
SCOUTING REPORT: Starting with a slightly closed stance before striding to neutral, Torin generates a simple righthanded swing geared for contact. He has a low chase rate and a low whiff rate, particularly on pitches in the zone. He shows good game awareness at the plate with things like a two-strike approach and knowing when to sell out on an aggressive swing. Torin walks about as much as he strikes out, but he doesn't hit balls hard consistently, raising questions about his ultimate impact. He hit six home runs in 2025 and likely will struggle to reach double digits in the majors. Torin is a smooth shortstop with good hands and a strong arm. Evaluators were worried he might have to move off the position because of his short, thick build, but those concerns have quieted as he has stayed on top of his conditioning and looks more athletic. He also plays second base. Torin is a below-average runner.
THE FUTURE: Whether Torin hits enough to be a big leauge regular remains to be seen, but even if his outcome is more of a Miguel Rojas utility type, many evaluators see a decent likelihood that he enjoys a long career in the majors.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.291	127	488	83	142	26	3	6	59	69	81	16	.383	.393

BRIAN WESTERHOLT/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (FORBES), CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES (CARROLL)

TOP 10

By CARLOS COLLAZO

TOM DIPACE

1 CAM CAMINITI LHP

FB: 60. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 45.

Born: August 8, 2006. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 195.
Drafted: HS—Scottsdale, AZ, 2024 (1st round).
Signed by: Anthony Flora.

TRACK RECORD: Caminiti was the top-ranked high school pitcher in the 2024 class and signed with the Braves for $3,553,800 as the organization's first pick at No. 24 overall. A former two-way player with impressive raw power in high school, Caminiti is now a full-time pitcher and turned in an electric 2025 campaign, primarily with Low-A Augusta. He missed two months of the season with forearm tendinitis. He got on the mound in May, threw a handful of tuneup games in the Florida Complex League, then posted a 2.08 ERA and 31.9% strikeout rate in 56.1 innings and 13 starts with Augusta. Among minor league pitchers who were 18 or younger with at least 50 innings, Caminiti ranked third with 90 strikeouts and fourth in strikeout rate. He's a cousin of the late Ken Caminiti.

SCOUTING REPORT: Caminiti has a lean and athletic frame at 6-foot-2, 195 pounds. He creates a tough angle for hitters by working from the first base side of the rubber and throwing across his body with a low release height. Caminiti lowered his arm slot in 2025 and simultaneously added a bit of extension, which helped his four-seam fastball play better at the top of the zone. He went from a two-seam grip in high school to a four-seam grip with the Braves, and in 2025 averaged 93-94 mph and touched 97. The flat nature of the pitch combined with its power should allow it to be at least a plus offering, and he did an excellent job using it to attack the strike zone and get ahead in counts. While the fastball is the centerpiece of Caminiti's arsenal, he has flashed exciting secondaries as well. He got plenty of whiffs on both his slider and changeup against Low-A hitters in 2025. He throws a low-80s, sweeping slider as his go-to secondary pitch. It grades well analytically and can be a nightmare for lefthanded hitters, but it needs more consistency. The Braves are hoping he can add a harder and shorter breaking ball, such as a gyro slider, in the future. Caminiti started throwing a kick changeup in 2025. The pitch sits in the 85-88 mph range with solid armside life and occasional splitter-like depth at its best. It was a reliable miss and chase offering at the lower levels, but it remains a work in progress that Caminiti will need to locate more consistently after he threw it for strikes less than half the time in 2025.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Sean Newcomb, LHP	Athletics
2017	Dansby Swanson, SS	Cubs
2018	Ronald Acuña Jr., OF	Braves
2019	Austin Riley, 3B	Braves
2020	Cristian Pache, OF	D-backs
2021	Cristian Pache, OF	D-backs
2022	Michael Harris II, OF	Braves
2023	AJ Smith-Shawver, RHP	Braves
2024	AJ Smith-Shawver, RHP	Braves
2025	Drake Baldwin, C	Braves

THE FUTURE: Caminiti is the highest-upside arm in Atlanta's system and has the stuff to become a solid No. 3-type starter who pitches a shade better than that on his best days. Those most excited about Caminiti's future could envision a Chris Sale-esque low-slot lefty who dominates with a fastball and slider. While his upside is tantalizing, Caminiti still has a long way to go. After dominating Low-A, he should be ready to start the 2026 season with High-A Rome, where adding command and consistency to his secondaries and potentially deepening his arsenal will be developmental keys.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	2	4	3.09	17	17	70	60	5	28	90	0.6	9.5	30.5	1.26

2 JR RITCHIE RHP

FB: 50. **CB:** 50. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 50. **CT:** 50. **SW:** 50. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: June 26, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 185.
Drafted: HS—Bainbridge Island, WA, 2022 (1st round supp). **Signed by:** Cody Martin.

TRACK RECORD: Ritchie signed with the Braves for $2.4 million as the 35th overall pick in the 2022 draft as a cerebral three-pitch righty with polish beyond his years. He dealt with Tommy John surgery and recovery in 2023 and 2024 but had a strong 2025 season. Ritchie threw 140 innings—a top 15 mark among minor league pitchers—across three levels and posted a 2.64 ERA and 24.8% strikeout rate. He started the Futures Game at Truist Park and was the Braves' 2025 minor league player of the year.

SCOUTING REPORT: Ritchie continues to stand out for his advanced feel to pitch, but his arsenal today looks nothing like it did when he was drafted. Previously a fastball/slider/changeup pitcher, Ritchie now throws seven unique pitches and has an uncanny ability to separate them and manipulate his arsenal seemingly overnight. Ritchie averaged 93.5 mph with his four-seam fastball and touched 96-97. He also throws a two-seam fastball with similar power, an upper-80s changeup, a low-80s curveball, a mid-80s gyro slider, a sweeper that's a tick or two softer and a cutter around 90 mph that pushes 92. Ritchie is comfortable landing his entire mix. While that could be enough to keep hitters off-balance, he lacks a true wipeout offering. In the past, his gyro slider was a swing-and-miss pitch, but it backed up in 2025 to the point where Ritchie threw it less in the second half of the season. Rediscovering that breaking ball or adding more velocity—perhaps by doing a better job sitting into his back leg in his delivery—could help him find another gear.

THE FUTURE: Ritchie is nearing his big league debut and has the tools to be a solid No. 4 starter. He could get an MLB opportunity in 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (3 teams)	A+,AA,AAA	8	6	2.64	26	26	140	87	12	54	140	0.8	9.6	24.8	1.01

3 DIDIER FUENTES RHP

FB: 60. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 40. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: June 17, 2005. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 170.
Signed: Colombia, 2022. **Signed by:** Orlando Covo.

TRACK RECORD: Fuentes signed with the Braves out of Colombia in 2022 without much fanfare, but he elevated his stock as a pro thanks to a strong combination of strikes and fastball life. He pitched effectively at three minor league levels in his age-20 season in 2025, but struggled with fastball location and home runs in his first four major league starts in June and July.

SCOUTING REPORT: Fuentes has a solid frame with more physicality than his official 6-foot, 170-pound frame indicates. He attacks hitters from a low release point and does a nice job getting off the rubber with above-average extension—which helps him throw one of the flattest fastballs in the game. Fuentes added nearly a tick and a half to his fastball velocity and averaged 94.7 mph while touching 98-99. The pitch has both power and life that makes it a swing-and-miss heater at its best, but its shape is reliant on him pounding the upper third of the strike zone and above. Fuentes' brief major league stint showed what could happen to his fastball when he put it in the heart of the zone too often—namely, an .886 opponent slugging percentage and six home runs allowed in just 13 innings. Sharpening his fastball command will be important, as will developing secondaries to keep hitters from sitting on his fastball. Fuentes has toyed with both a sweeper and gyro slider, as well as an 80-83 mph curveball with more depth and an upper-80s splitter. He has a strong track record as an above-average strike-thrower, though his command is not yet at that level.

THE FUTURE: In 2026, Fuentes will pitch as a 21-year-old who has outlier fastball traits and a solid control foundation. His future role will depend on his secondary development and fastball command.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	20	Minors (3 teams)	A+,AA,AAA	1	7	4.58	13	13	57	49	4	16	71	0.6	6.7	29.8	1.14
2025	20	Atlanta (NL)	MLB	0	3	13.85	4	4	13	23	6	6	12	4.2	8.7	17.4	2.23

4 OWEN MURPHY RHP

FB: 60. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 55. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: September 27, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—Riverside, IL, 2022 (1st round). **Signed by:** Jeremy Gordon.

TRACK RECORD: Murphy starred as a two-way player at his suburban Chicago high school as a shortstop/righthander. He signed for $2,556,900 as Atlanta's first-round pick in 2022 and has pitched well whenever he's been on the mound. A Tommy John surgery cut short a potential breakout season in 2024, but Murphy returned to the mound in late July 2025 and continued posting. He had a 1.19 ERA in 30.1 innings between Rookie ball and Low-A with a 25.5 K-BB% that was second-best in the Braves' system among pitchers with at least 30 innings.

SCOUTING REPORT: Murphy is a 6-foot-1, 190-pound righthander who works with a clean delivery and three-quarters slot. He primarily works with a three-pitch mix led by a 90-92 mph fastball. His four-seam fastball was down about a half tick of velocity in 2025, and he averaged just under 91 mph while touching 94. The pitch is light on power but has always played up thanks to tremendous riding life and a flat approach angle. The shape of Murphy's fastball could allow it to be effective in the majors even with below-average power, though adding more velocity remains a crucial goal. Murphy throws a mid-80s slider that lacks depth but has solid gloveside action, as well as a downer curveball in the mid 70s. The Braves were happy with his slider progress, and he threw the pitch more frequently compared to 2024. Murphy is also experimenting with a kick changeup, but he's yet to fully break the pitch out in games. He's an above-average athlete and average strike-thrower and who has always done a nice job attacking the top of the zone with his fastball.

THE FUTURE: Murphy's post-surgery 2025 season was a success. Now he needs to find a way to add more power to his mix and show he can miss bats in the upper minors. He has back-end starter upside.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A+	3	0	1.19	7	7	30	15	1	6	34	0.3	5.5	30.9	0.69

Owen Murphy

BEST TOOLS

BATTING	
Best Hitter	Diego Tornes
Best Power Hitter	Conor Essenburg
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	John Gil
Fastest Baserunner	Isaiah Drake
Best Athlete	Diego Tornes

PITCHING	
Best Fastball	Owen Murphy
Best Curveball	Briggs McKenzie
Best Slider	Jhancarlos Lara
Best Changeup	Briggs McKenzie
Best Control	Lucas Braun

FIELDING	
Best Defensive Catcher	Tyler Tolve
Best Defensive Infielder	Alex Lodise
Best Infield Arm	Alex Lodise
Best Defensive Outfielder	Eric Hartman
Best Outfield Arm	Diego Tornes

5 BRIGGS McKENZIE LHP

FB: 50. **CB:** 60. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: October 11, 2006. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—Wendell, NC, 2025 (4th round). **Signed by:** Al Skorupa.

TRACK RECORD: McKenzie ranked as the No. 46 prospect in the 2025 draft and signed an over-slot deal with the Braves for $2,997,500 in the fourth round—the largest bonus in Atlanta's class. McKenzie was an up-arrow prospect early in the spring with his Corinth Holders High team in North Carolina. He showed improved fastball velocity and a refined changeup, but his velocity was more inconsistent closer to the draft. He threw at instructional league but not in official games after signing.

SCOUTING REPORT: McKenzie is a lanky 6-foot-2, 190-pound lefthander with a smooth delivery that features a lengthy arm action and a cross-body finish. He's been up to 95 mph with his fastball—and touched 94 mph in instructs—but his average velocity comes and goes and can sit in the low 90s or upper 80s depending on the start. He has great aptitude to spin a breaking pitch with huge spin rates. McKenzie's curveball sits 75-79 mph and routinely gets into the 3,000 rpm range with great depth and biting action at its best. It would be unsurprising if he developed that breaking ball into more of a classic sweeper slider as he adds more strength and power. The development of his mid-80s changeup this spring was key in pushing him up draft boards, and was a pitch Braves officials were enamored of after signing him. He uses a circle change grip that he holds deep in his hand and generates hellacious depth at its best. It has high-end bat-missing potential as he learns to land it with more consistency. McKenzie has been a solid strike-thrower, but the length of his arm action could inhibit his command.

THE FUTURE: McKenzie is slated to pitch at Low-A Augusta in 2026. He has the tools to become a solid No. 3 or 4 starter but has a long way to go. His workmanlike makeup and coachable mindset are assets.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	18	Did not play															

BRIAN WESTERHOLT / FOUR SEAM IMAGES (MCKENZIE)

6 ALEX **LODISE** SS

HIT: 40. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: March 10, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: Florida State, 2025 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Jon Bunnell.

TRACK RECORD: Lodise was one of the best players in college baseball in 2025, when he was the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year after hitting .394/.462/.705 with 17 home runs and 18 doubles for Florida State. He ranked as the No. 26 prospect in the class but fell to the second round, where the Braves signed him to a $1,297,500 bonus. Lodise played 25 games with High-A Rome after signing and hit .252/.294/.398 with a 38.5% strikeout rate and 4.6% walk rate.

SCOUTING REPORT: Listed at 6-foot-1, 190 pounds, Lodise is a strong and physical athlete who packs a punch at the plate and likes to swing the bat—a lot. He's an aggressive hitter who swung 53% of the time in his three-year college career and then 54% of the time in his pro debut. That aggression leads to lots of chases as well. Lodise will need to become more selective, and the Braves are also hoping a few mechanical tweaks will help him make contact more in different parts of the zone. Without improving in this area, Lodise could be a streaky hitter who doesn't walk much—he had a sub 10% walk rate in college—and is reliant on how often he can turn on the ball for extra-base damage. He's a solid runner and potentially underrated defender at shortstop. He has better lateral range than his speed might indicate and has a plus arm that helps him make difficult plays from deep positions in the hole. He also has solid arm versatility and is comfortable throwing on the run and from different slots.

THE FUTURE: Lodise has everyday upside as a pull-side power hitter with the defensive chops to stick at shortstop. Whether he gets to that upside depends heavily on the progress he can make with his approach and contact.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Rome (SAL)	A+	.252	25	103	11	26	10	1	1	9	5	42	2	.294	.398

7 LUCAS **BRAUN** RHP

FB: 45. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 45. **CT:** 50. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 26, 2001. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 185.
Drafted: Cal State Northridge, 2023 (6th round). **Signed by:** Kevin Martin.

TRACK RECORD: Braun has been a reliable starter and strike-thrower for the Braves since he signed as a sixth-rounder out of Cal State Northridge for $347,500 in 2023. In each of the last two seasons he eclipsed the 140-inning mark, and in 2025 he posted a 3.67 ERA in 26 starts and 149.2 innings between Double-A Columbus and Triple-A Gwinnett. Braun's 145 strikeouts were the most in Atlanta's system.

SCOUTING REPORT: Braun is a 6-foot, 185-pound righthander who works out of the stretch and sets up on the third base side of the rubber. He continued to add more pitches to his arsenal in 2025 and now has six distinct offerings. Braun's four-seam fastball sits 92-93 mph and touches 95, but he also worked in a two-seam fastball much more frequently compared to the 2024 season. His go-to pitch at this point is a mid-80s sweeping slider, which gets heavy usage and is his most consistent swing-and-miss offering. Braun has also worked to implement an 87-91 mph cutter and continues to throw a softer, downer curveball at 78-82 mph and an upper-80s changeup with increased usage versus lefties. Nothing Braun throws is plus. Instead, he relies on his advanced control and command—the best in the system—and an ability to mix and match. Braun's fastball command has always been a strength, and his career 6.7% walk rate points to above-average control.

THE FUTURE: The Braves are hoping there's a bit more velocity to be found with Braun that could unlock a bit more upside. An optimistic outlook could be a Chris Bassitt-like pitcher who finds success with below-average velocity by throwing the kitchen sink with good control. Braun should be ready to help the major league team in 2026, which will be his 40-man roster evaluation season.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	23	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	7	6	3.67	27	26	150	119	19	39	145	1.1	6.5	24.3	1.06

8 GARRETT **BAUMANN** RHP

FB: 55. **CB:** 40. **SL:** 45. **CH:** 45. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 15, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-8. **WT:** 245.
Drafted: HS—Oviedo, FL, 2023 (4th round). **Signed by:** Jon Bunnell.

TRACK RECORD: Baumann signed an over-slot $747,500 deal as a fourth-round pick in 2023 and has been an imposing workhorse since. After a rock-solid first full season with Low-A Augusta in 2024, Baumann replicated his efforts in 2025 with High-A Rome. He posted a 3.40 ERA over 23 starts and 113.2 innings with a 22.5% strikeout rate and 6.4% walk rate.

SCOUTING REPORT: Baumann has been a monstrous, physical presence since his prep days. He stands 6-foot-8, 245 pounds and attacks hitters from a high release point with a delivery that is surprisingly coordinated and synced up for a 20-year-old pitcher of his size. He added more than a tick of velocity to his fastball this year and now averages 95 mph and will touch 99. His four-seam is a steep offering that doesn't generate a ton of whiffs. As a remedy, he began incorporating a two-seamer that would play off his release height and potentially be a weapon at the bottom of the zone. Baumann's ability to throw his fastball for strikes has been an asset for multiple years now—he's thrown it for strikes more than 70% of the time in 2024 and 2025—but there are questions about his secondary pitches. He throws a mid-80s slider with some sweep, a low-80s curveball with more depth and an 86-90 mph splitter. All his secondaries earn fringy reviews and leave him without a reliable swing-and-miss pitch to put hitters away. The splitter could be his best bet, though Baumann might also try to add a harder, tighter gyro slider or a cutter in 2026.

THE FUTURE: Baumann's fastball velocity and command remain strengths, but his secondaries could limit him to a back-end starter or reliever role without improvement. He should begin to face upper-minors competition in 2026.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	20	Rome (SAL)	A+	6	9	3.40	23	23	114	110	10	31	108	0.8	6.4	22.5	1.24

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Spencer Strider	30
No. 2 Starter	Spencer Schwellenbach	29
No. 3 Starter	AJ Smith-Shawver	26
No. 4 Starter	Cam Caminiti	22
No. 5 Starter	JR Ritchie	26
Closer	Hurston Waldrep	26

Catcher	**Drake Baldwin**	28
First Base	Matt Olson	35
Second Base	John Gil	23
Third Base	Austin Riley	32
Shortstop	Alex Lodise	25
Left Field	Conor Essenburg	22
Center Field	Michael Harris II	28
Right Field	Diego Tornes	20
Designated Hitter	Ronald Acuña Jr.	31

9 LUKE **SINNARD** RHP

FB: 50. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 21, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-8. **WT:** 250.
Drafted: Indiana, 2024 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Jeremy Gordon.

TRACK RECORD: The Braves took a shot on Sinnard's upside with a $735,300 deal in the third round out of Indiana even after he missed his 2024 draft year with Tommy John surgery. He then dealt with a nerve issue after his surgery but made his pro debut in 2025. Sinnard split time between Low-A Augusta and High-A Rome, posting a 2.86 ERA over 16 starts and 72.1 innings with a 28.3% strikeout rate. He pitched in the Arizona Fall League after the season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Sinnard has an extra-large frame at 6-foot-8, 250 pounds with plenty of strength and broad, coat-hanger shoulders. He primarily works with a three-pitch mix that includes a fastball, slider and splitter. Sinnard's fastball averaged 93-94 mph and touched 97. It's a steep pitch that comes from a higher slot, with solid riding life, but because of his steep approach and release height the Braves worked with him to add a two-seam variant. Both Sinnard's slider and splitter were effective swing-and-miss pitches against Class A hitters. Sinnard's slider is an upper-80s breaking ball with short, biting action. His splitter is an 80-85 mph pitch with spin rates around 800-900 rpm with solid depth. He uses the slider at a heavy clip versus righties and breaks out the splitter more often against lefties. He also has a rarely used low-80s curveball. The Braves were impressed with the control and command Sinnard showed throughout the season. He tends to attack the zone more than the team would like him to in pitcher's counts, and he might have more strikeout potential if he gets more aggressive and uses his secondaries with the intent to be chase pitches below the zone.

THE FUTURE: Sinnard now needs to show he can miss bats at more age-appropriate levels. He has back-end rotation upside and enough pure stuff to carve out a reliever role if necessary.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A+,A	2	6	2.86	16	16	72	58	3	27	86	0.4	8.9	28.3	1.18

10 DIEGO **TORNES** OF

HIT: 50. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Extreme. **Adj:** 35.

Born: July 3, 2008. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 178.
Signed: Cuba, 2025. **Signed by:** Reymond Nuñez.

TRACK RECORD: The Braves have not received great returns from the international market in years, but Tornes, the team's $2.5 million Cuban headliner from the 2025 class, has the potential to change that. The physical switch-hitter was lauded for his offensive prowess before signing and then ranked as the No. 4 prospect in the Dominican Summer League in 2025.

SCOUTING REPORT: Officially listed at 6-foot-2, 178 pounds, Tornes is both young for the class and more physically developed than his peers. He has a strong, athletic build that still has more strength potential, with clean hitting mechanics from both sides of the plate to go with excellent bat speed. While some scouts described Tornes as an aggressive, free swinger in his debut, he showed an impressive blend of hitting ability and power with a knack for making adjustments and covering the entire zone. While he didn't hit a single home run, his exit velocity data is tremendous. His 105.4 mph 90th percentile exit velocity was fifth among Braves prospects with at least 100 plate appearances, and the best mark of any hitter younger than 22 years old. Tornes has turned in plus run times and impressed internal and external scouts with his defensive instincts and athleticism in center field. There's a split camp on whether he's destined for a corner or will continue to move well enough to stay in center, but his defensive progress is already better than it was billed. His arm might be his loudest individual tool, with both excellent strength and accuracy on his throws.

THE FUTURE: Tornes' collection of physical tools gives him more upside than any hitter in the system, but he's years away from the majors with plenty of refinement still needed. He should make his stateside debut in 2026 in what will be his age-17 season.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	16	DSL Braves	Rk	.279	32	122	20	34	5	5	0	13	23	32	24	.395	.402

TOM DIPACE (MURPHY), MATTHEW GRIMES JR./ATLANTA BRAVES/GETTY IMAGES (BALDWIN)

TOP 10

By GEOFF PONTES

1 MOISES BALLESTEROS C

HIT: 60. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 50.

Born: November 8, 2003. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 225.
Signed: Venezuela, 2021.
Signed by: Louie Eljaua/Julio Figueroa/Hector Ortega.

TRACK RECORD: Ballesteros stood out as a youth player with the Venezuelan national team at the 2015 12U World Cup in Taiwan. He maintained his hitting prowess throughout his amateur career and signed with the Cubs for $1.5 million in January 2021. He made his professional debut in the Dominican Summer League in 2021 before he came stateside in 2022. He split his domestic debut between the Arizona Complex League and Low-A. Ballesteros broke out in 2023 by hitting .285/.374/.449 with 14 home runs across three levels. He won the Cubs' minor league player of the year award in 2023 and again in 2024, when he hit .289/.354/.471 with 19 homers between Double-A and Triple-A. Ballesteros spent a majority of the 2025 season with Triple-A Iowa and made his MLB debut on May 13, appearing in 20 games as well as two playoff games.

SCOUTING REPORT: One of the most advanced hitters in the minor leagues, Ballesteros is a lefthanded-hitting, bat-first catcher with major questions around his viability behind the plate. His plus bat-to-ball ability allows him to minimize misses inside the zone and hit a variety of pitch types with very few struggles. Ballesteros is a true contact hitter and is at times overly aggressive and willing to expand the zone. He uses primarily an all-fields approach and a linear swing path and looks to hit the ball gap to gap. His style of hitting is geared toward splattering line drives around the yard, but his underlying power hints at potential for more home runs in time. Ballesteros has plus raw power, backed by plus top end exit velocities to match. A 90th percentile exit velocity of 105.1 mph and a max EV of 112.3 rank in the top 10% of hitters his age. Ballesteros' flatter batted-ball angles lead to fewer home runs than his EVs suggest. Ballesteros rarely strikes out and walks at an average rate while making lots of hard contact. His long-term defensive home is where things get tricky. Despite an average throwing arm behind the plate, Ballesteros was run on liberally at Triple-A in 2025 and allowed 92 stolen bases on 106 attempts. Ballesteros is a below-average blocker and framer, though he has improved in both areas in recent years. While a majority of Ballesteros' games at Triple-A came behind the plate, he might see more action at first base or DH early in his MLB career. He projects as a below-average defensive catcher but could see consistent action there as a part of a platoon. While catching is still up in the air, there's little doubt that Ballesteros will be a successful major league hitter.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Gleyber Torres, SS	Tigers
2017	Eloy Jimenez, OF	Blue Jays
2018	Aramis Ademan, SS	Did not play
2019	Nico Hoerner, SS	Cubs
2020	Brailyn Marquez, LHP	Did not play
2021	Brailyn Marquez, LHP	Did not play
2022	Brennen Davis, OF	Yankees
2023	Pete Crow-Armstrong, OF	Cubs
2024	Pete Crow-Armstrong, OF	Cubs
2025	Matt Shaw, 3B	Cubs

THE FUTURE: Ballesteros should compete for batting titles in the coming years as he settles into a catcher/first base/DH role.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Iowa (IL)	AAA	.316	114	446	62	141	29	1	13	76	49	67	5	.385	.473
2025	21	Chicago (NL)	MLB	.298	20	57	12	17	2	1	2	11	9	12	0	.394	.474

2 OWEN **CAISSIE** OF

HIT: 50. **POW:** 65. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 50.

Born: July 8, 2002. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—Burlington, ON, 2020 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Chris Kemlo (Padres)

TRACK RECORD: A touted Canadian prep hitter, Caissie signed with the Padres for $1.2 million in the second round in 2020. Before he ever played a game for the organization, Caissie was traded to the Cubs in the Yu Darvish deal. Caissie has climbed each rung of the minor league ladder and made his MLB debut on August 14, 2025, in his hometown of Toronto. He appeared in 12 games for the Cubs over the final two months, missing time with a concussion.

SCOUTING REPORT: The early years of Caissie's career were defined by his Three True Outcomes approach. Over the past two seasons, he has improved his contact rates and chase rates. The improvements have pushed Caissie comfortably into the average contact category, while his strikeout rate has dropped in consecutive seasons. Caissie does a good job of staying inside the zone and being aggressive. This plays directly into his strength: quality of contact. Caissie has plus-plus underlying power with 60-grade game power. His batted-ball angles have improved over the last two seasons, and he more consistently shows the ability to hit his best struck drives in the air. He also saw a jump in pull-side air contact in 2025, portending a higher home run ceiling. Caissie is a fringe-average runner who has slowed down over the last few seasons. In turn, this has limited him a bit in right field. He has lost range and is uncoordinated at times on extra-effort plays. He's fringe-average in the corner outfield. Despite good instincts and a plus arm, he is dragged down by below-average hands and range.

THE FUTURE: Caissie is a major league-ready slugging corner outfielder with the prerequisite plate skills to project as an above-average regular.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Iowa (IL)	AAA	.286	99	370	74	106	28	2	22	55	57	121	5	.386	.551
2025	22	Chicago (NL)	MLB	.192	12	26	4	5	1	0	1	4	1	11	0	.222	.346

3 JAXON **WIGGINS** RHP

FB: 70. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 50. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 45.

Born: October 3, 2001. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-6. **WT:** 225.
Drafted: Arkansas, 2023 (2nd round supplemental). **Signed by:** Ty Nichols.

TRACK RECORD: Wiggins struggled for two seasons at Arkansas before having Tommy John surgery prior to his junior season. Despite the injury, the Cubs bet on Wiggins' upside by drafting him 68th overall in 2023 and signing him for $1.4 million. He debuted with the Cubs the following May and enjoyed a strong professional debut. Wiggins climbed three levels to Triple-A in 2025, dominating at each stop. He dealt with arm fatigue during the middle of the season and missed most of July and August. The Cubs played the injury close to the vest, but Wiggins returned in late August.

SCOUTING REPORT: Standing 6-foot-6 with an athletic build, Wiggins looks the part of innings-eating starting pitcher. His high-powered arsenal and solid combination of pitch characteristics hints at some of the highest upside among pitching prospects who had not yet debuted in MLB. Staying healthy and handling a larger workload has held Wiggins back, hinting at some relief risk. When healthy, his upper-90s fastball is one of the best thrown by a starting pitching prospect. The pitch sits 96-98 mph and touches 100 at peak. Wiggins generates a combination of plus ride and armside run, while boasting six and a half feet of extension. His best secondary pitch is a upper-80s cut-slider that generates whiffs at a well above-average rate. Wiggins pairs his fastball and slider with an upper-80s changeup that plays well off his fastball. His curveball is rarely thrown but sits in the low 80s with a heavy two-plane break. He shows average command of his fastball, slider and changeup and is in the zone with all of his pitches at a high rate.

THE FUTURE: While Wiggins has as much upside as any player in the Cubs' system, his checkered injury history likely limits him to a midrotation role.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	23	Minors (3 teams)	A+,AA,AAA	3	4	2.19	19	18	78	44	4	36	97	0.5	11.5	31.0	1.03

4 JEFFERSON **ROJAS** SS

HIT: 55. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: April 25, 2005. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 150.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2022. **Signed by:** Glan Guzman/Miguel Diaz.

TRACK RECORD: Signed in January 2022 for $1 million out of the Dominican Republic, Rojas has quickly proved to be a precocious shortstop prospect with advanced skills. He impressed as an 18-year-old for Low-A Myrtle Beach by hitting .268/.345/.404 in 2023. He spent all of 2024 with High-A South Bend and returned to the Midwest League in 2025 before a second-half promotion to Double-A, where he struggled for the final two months.

SCOUTING REPORT: An advanced contact hitter, Rojas' above-average hitting ability is the nucleus of his profile. The righthanded hitter showed no platoon-split issues during his time in High-A. Rojas shows plus bat-to-ball ability with average swing decisions, leading to lots of quality at-bats. His game power improved in 2025 as he more consistently found the barrel and began to optimize his swing for more pulled contact in the air. Rojas projects for mid-teens home run production but has enough power to find the gaps. He's an above-average runner but isn't an aggressive baserunner, picking his spots and stealing at a high percentage. In the field, Rojas is an average shortstop defender. His footwork and hands leave something to be desired and he's prone to poorly timed dives on extra-effort plays. His arm is plus, and he shows an excellent internal clock on his throws. Rojas is adept at throwing on the run and is very good around the bag, turning double plays consistently. He could slide over to second base or third base, but improvements to his hands and footwork could see him stick at shortstop.

THE FUTURE: Rojas is an advanced hitter who's been three to four years younger than the average player at each level. He has the tools to be an above-average hitting infielder with the ability to play multiple positions.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.236	106	398	67	94	19	4	11	59	58	81	19	.343	.387

Owen Caissie

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Moises Ballesteros
Best Power Hitter	Owen Caissie
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Kane Kepley
Fastest Baserunner	Alexey Lumpuy
Best Athlete	Kevin Alcantara

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Jaxon Wiggins
Best Curveball	Riley Martin
Best Slider	Jaxon Wiggins
Best Changeup	Nick Dean
Best Control	Connor Noland

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Ariel Armas
Best Defensive Infielder	Juan Tomas
Best Infield Arm	Juan Tomas
Best Defensive Outfielder	Brett Bateman
Best Outfield Arm	Kevin Alcantara

5 ETHAN **CONRAD** OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: July 5, 2004. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 220.
Drafted: Wake Forest, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Billy Swoope.

TRACK RECORD: After a standout sophomore campaign at Marist and a strong summer in the Cape Cod League, Conrad transferred to Wake Forest for 2025. There, he played just 21 games before a left shoulder injury required surgery. He hit .372/.495/.744 with seven home runs, 18 walks and 14 strikeouts. The Cubs drafted Conrad 17th overall and signed him for an under-slot $3,563,100. He participated in fall instructional league after signing.

SCOUTING REPORT: One of the top college hitters available in the 2025 draft, Conrad is a taller outfielder with an athletic build that still has some projection remaining. His bat-to-ball skills are advanced. He ran a 92% zone-contact rate in 2025 with Wake Forest and didn't swing and miss against a single pitch thrown in the zone by a lefthanded pitcher. He shows strong contact skills and production across all pitch types. In his first two collegiate seasons, Conrad's approach was more aggressive, but during his truncated season at Wake he showed vastly improved swing decisions that now grade as above-average. Conrad's power is above-average with exit velocity data above the NCAA norm and good hard-hit launch angles. A majority of the pitches Conrad barrels are shot to the opposite field, and finding more consistent pull-side power will likely be a point of emphasis in his development. Conrad is an above-average runner with an average arm who plays an average center field. He has good range and is likely to be above-average in an outfield corner. As Conrad works his way back in 2026, it's likely he sees some time at first base, a position he played at Marist as an underclassman.

THE FUTURE: Conrad has the type of quality all-around tools to rise up prospect ranks in 2026, though his profile carries some risk because of his shoulder injury and shorter track record beyond Marist.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Did not play															

MATT DIRKSEN/CHICAGO CUBS/GETTY IMAGES (CAISSIE), LUKE HALES/GETTY IMAGES (BALLESTEROS), BILL MITCHELL (CONRAD)

6 KANE **KEPLEY** OF

HIT: 60. **POW:** 40. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 70. **ARM:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: February 14, 2004. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 5-8. **WT:** 180.
Drafted: North Carolina, 2025 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Billy Swoope.

TRACK RECORD: Kepley spent two seasons at Liberty before transferring to North Carolina. In his single season with the Tar Heels, he hit .291/.451/.444 with three home runs and 45 stolen bases. The Cubs drafted Kepley in the second round in 2025 and signed him for $1.4 million. Kepley had one of the most impressive debuts of any draftee, hitting .299/.481/.433 with two homers and 16 steals in 28 games for Low-A Myrtle Beach.

SCOUTING REPORT: A throwback-style player, Kepley has an undersized, hit tool-driven profile with plus-plus defense in center field. He stands just 5-foot-8 and has limited power, but his hit tool is likely advanced enough to make him a productive big league hitter one day. Kepley rarely swings and misses, running elite contact rates in 2025 at North Carolina and in his pro debut. He rarely expands the zone while showing aggressive tendencies on strikes. His approach and bat-to-ball skills are consistently good across all pitch types. While Kepley may lack over-the-fence power, he makes consistently hard contact. Kepley lacks impressive top-end exit velocities, but he finds the barrel, and his average exit velocity is in line with major league average. Kepley hits the ball flush at good angles and shows the ability to pull the ball in the air. Kepley is a plus runner and dangerous basestealer who will consistently draw the attention of opposing batteries. He's a plus-plus defender in center, where his plus speed and strong instincts to cover large swaths of the outfield.

THE FUTURE: Kepley has an advanced hit tool, more power than one would expect from his frame and a no-doubt center field defensive profile. He looks like a classic table-setter and outstanding everyday center fielder.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Myrtle Beach (CAR)	A	.299	28	97	28	29	1	3	2	15	25	15	16	.481	.433

7 KEVIN **ALCANTARA** OF

HIT: 40. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 60. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: July 12, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-6. **WT:** 188.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2018. **Signed by:** Edgar Mateo/Juan Piron (Yankees).

TRACK RECORD: Signed by the Yankees in 2018 for $1 million out of the Dominican Republic, Alcantara was traded to the Cubs three years later in the deal that sent Anthony Rizzo to New York. Over parts of five seasons in the Cubs' system, Alcantara has been a productive but inconsistent performer. He made his MLB debut in late September 2024 but did not return to the major leagues until nearly a year later. He spent a majority of 2025 with Triple-A Iowa and had surgery to repair a sports hernia after the season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Alcantara is an outstanding athlete with loud tools and a wiry 6-foot-6 frame. His batting contributions have been dragged down by poor plate discipline and pitch recognition. Despite a consistent issue with expanding the zone, Alcantara shows average bat-to-ball skills and runs a better than average in-zone contact rate. A righthanded hitter, he has a track record against lefthanders, hitting .320/.396/.588 against southpaws in 2025. Alcantara has plus-plus raw power with a 90th percentile exit velocity that ranks within the 90th percentile. He did a good job of adding more loft to his swing in 2025 and, in turn, found more barrels. He still has a fair amount of groundball contact and a straightaway to opposite-field power swing that will limit his home run totals. An improved approach could also allow Alcantara to capitalize on more of his raw power. While Alcantara is a plus runner, he is only an average basestealer. His running ability translates to the outfield, where he's a plus center fielder with a plus arm.

THE FUTURE: Despite being eight years into his career, Alcantara still has a high variance of outcomes. He has all the tools of an everyday center fielder but is dragged down by hit tool questions.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Iowa (IL)	AAA	.266	102	379	55	101	26	0	17	69	48	128	10	.349	.470
2025	22	Chicago (NL)	MLB	.364	10	11	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	.417	.364

8 JONATHON **LONG** 1B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 45. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: January 20, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 210.
Drafted: Long Beach State, 2023 (9th round). **Signed by:** Evan Kauffman.

TRACK RECORD: After a strong three-year career at Long Beach State, Long was drafted by the Cubs in the ninth round in 2023. Assigned to High-A South Bend in 2024, he .hit his way to Double-A Tennessee in the second half, where he caught fire by hitting .340/.455/.528 over the final 46 games of the season. Long spent all of 2025 with Triple-A Iowa and hit .305/.404/.479 with 20 home runs, production that was 31% better than International League competition. He led the IL with 157 hits and was recognized as the league's all-star first baseman.

SCOUTING REPORT: While not blessed with plus athleticism or size, Long has continued to outperform his pedigree because of a nice blend of contact and power. His bat-to-ball skills are above-average and he limits whiffs with a passive approach. His lack of aggressiveness leads to lots of walks, but he's prone to taking hittable pitches for called strikes too often. Long shows a good blend of on-base skills and contact hitting and should project to hit for higher batting averages with good walk rates. His underlying raw power is plus and he's shown an ability to get to it in games consistently. Flatter launch angles have led to a higher groundball rate. Long's struggles to make contact in the air to his pull side likely cap his home run output. His exit velocity data and angles are likely enough to produce 18-24 home runs over a full season. If he's able to add loft to swing in the coming years, it's possible he gets into the mid 20s for home runs. Long is a below-average runner and is likely a primary first baseman. He's a fringe-average defender at first base and can fill in at third base on occasion.

THE FUTURE: Long might have the prerequisite contact and power combination to carve out a niche as a second-division regular.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	23	Iowa (IL)	AAA	.305	140	514	86	157	23	3	20	91	79	116	2	.404	.479

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Cade Horton	28
No. 2 Starter	Jaxon Wiggins	27
No. 3 Starter	Brandon Birdsell	29
No. 4 Starter	Will Sanders	27
No. 5 Starter	Jostin Florentino	24
Closer	Daniel Palencia	29

Catcher	Miguel Amaya	30
First Base	Michael Busch	31
Second Base	Jefferson Rojas	24
Third Base	Matt Shaw	27
Shortstop	Dansby Swanson	35
Left Field	Owen Caissie	26
Center Field	**Pete Crow-Armstrong**	27
Right Field	Ethan Conrad	24
Designated Hitter	Moises Ballesteros	25

9 COLE **MATHIS** 3B

HIT: 50. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: July 25, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 195.
Drafted: College of Charleston, 2024 (2nd round). **Signed by:** M'Lynn Dease.

TRACK RECORD: Mathis turned in an outstanding sophomore season at the College of Charleston as a two-way player in 2023. He followed by hitting 11 home runs in the Cape Cod League and making nine appearances on the mound. Mathis didn't pitch at all during his junior season and started slow at the plate before catching fire over the final months of the season. A few weeks after the Cubs drafted Mathis in the second round in 2024, he announced on Instagram that he had Tommy John surgery. He began the 2025 season with Low-A Myrtle Beach, playing in 28 games before he was shut down in mid May due to a right elbow sprain.

SCOUTING REPORT: Mathis features plus raw power with the ability to impact a game with his bat. He shows average bat-to-ball skills against all pitch types, giving him a stronger contact foundation than most power hitters. Mathis has grown as a hitter over the last two seasons as his approach at the plate has matured. He rarely expands the zone and does a good job of staying fairly aggressive on pitches in the strike zone. Mathis showed plus exit velocities in college and on the Cape but appeared to be impacted by his elbow injury with exit velocities that were closer to average. Many are confident that Mathis' power will return when he is fully healthy. He shows an efficient bat path and is adept at launching well-struck drives to his pull side. Due to the injury, Mathis played in the field very little in 2025. Prior to his Tommy John surgery, he was a below-average defender at third base with a plus arm. In the short term, he is likely to see a majority of his time at first base.

THE FUTURE: Mathis' defensive home is up in the air following Tommy John surgery. His average hit tool and above-average game power might be enough to carry his profile to second-division regular status.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Myrtle Beach (CAR)	A	.215	29	107	16	23	9	1	3	14	17	29	0	.336	.402

10 PEDRO **RAMIREZ** 2B/3B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 40. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 35.

Born: April 1, 2004. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 5-8. **WT:** 165.
Signed: Venezuela, 2021. **Signed by:** Julio Figueroa/Carlos Figueroa/Cirilo Cumberbatch.

TRACK RECORD: Ramirez signed for $75,000 out of Venezuela in January 2021 and has been a quick study as a professional. He hit .359/.417/.503 in his U.S. debut in 2022 and reached full-season ball by age 18. After two seasons across both levels of Class A, Ramirez spent all of 2025 at Double-A Knoxville, hitting .280/.346/.386 in 129 games. Ramirez was selected as the Southern League player of the month in July and a league all-star.

SCOUTING REPORT: An undersized switch-hitting infielder with the ability to play both second base and third base every day, Ramirez has a hit-over-power offensive profile. What he lacks in terms of impact, he makes up for with plus bat-to-ball skills and a discerning eye at the plate. Ramirez is more comfortable with his lefthanded swing, which translates to better production against righthanders. Ramirez has strong bat-to-ball skills as a righthanded hitter but a more aggressive approach. His power is below-average with fringy exit velocity data and lots of groundball contact. Ramirez's swings from each side of the plate are geared toward line-drive contact and putting the ball in play. He could find more power in the coming years by adding loft to his swing. An above-average runner, Ramirez is aggressive on the bases. His speed translates to the field, where he shows good range at multiple infield positions. Ramirez is an above-average defender at second and third base who is adept at making plays on the run. He's athletic in the field in terms of making plays on dives, jumps and slides. Ramirez's arm is above-average, with good power and accuracy. It's not uncommon to see him make a nice barehanded play.

THE FUTURE: Ramirez fits a high-end utility profile to a T. He can play multiple positions competently, while switch-hitting and bringing above-average speed.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Knoxville (SL)	AA	.280	129	500	70	140	21	4	8	73	46	85	28	.346	.386

BILL MITCHELL (MATHIS), GEOFF STELLFOX/GETTY IMAGES (CROW-ARMSTRONG)

TOP 10

By CARLOS COLLAZO

1 SAL STEWART 1B

HIT: 65. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 30. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: December 7, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 224.
Drafted: HS—Palmetto Bay, FL, 2022 (1st round supplemental).
Signed by: Andrew Fabian.

TRACK RECORD: A product of South Florida powerhouse Westminster Christian, Stewart has been one of the Reds' best hitting prospects since they drafted him 32nd overall in 2022. He has trained with and learned from Manny Machado for years, and when Stewart made it to the major leagues Machado gave him a Rolex as a congratulatory gift. In 2025, Stewart evolved into a more complete player by starting to learn how to pull the ball more consistently to get to his long-untapped power potential. Stewart's 25 home runs between the minors and majors more than doubled his previous career high. By the postseason, he was batting cleanup for the Reds. He drove in nearly half of the Reds' runs in the playoffs. More surprisingly, he also had the team's only stolen base in its Wild Card Series loss to the Dodgers.

SCOUTING REPORT: Stewart's hitting ability has always been his standout tool. He knows the strike zone, and he has a repeatable, consistent swing that helps him avoid long slumps. Stewart begins his swing with a significant timing step, but he's generally on time, with above-average bat speed and barrel control. He posted a sub-.800 OPS in only one month during 2024 and 2025 combined. Midway through the 2025 season at Double-A Chattanooga, Stewart began to get more aggressive and looked to pull balls for power when he was ahead in counts. From June onward, he pulled 14 homers to left and left-center field. He has the rare ability to be a plus hitter with plus power. Those skills are going to be important, because Stewart's value to a big league club will largely come at the plate. He has a thick and squatty build that limits his range. Stewart's hands work well on the infield, and he's adept at diving to make a play. While he makes plays on what he can reach, he lacks range at second or third base. His well below-average arm is a much bigger issue. Stewart's strongest tracked throw in Triple-A and the majors was 78 mph, which was 7 mph lower than the average arm strength for an MLB third baseman. At first base, that won't be an issue, but he needs more reps to get comfortable with the footwork the position requires. Stewart makes good decisions on the basepaths, and he'll even swipe a bag if pitchers ignore him, but he's a well below-average runner now, and is likely to get slower considering he's only 21.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Robert Stephenson, RHP	Angels
2017	Nick Senzel, 3B	Dodgers
2018	Nick Senzel, 3B	Dodgers
2019	Nick Senzel, 3B	Dodgers
2020	Hunter Greene, RHP	Reds
2021	Jose Barrero, SS	Orioles
2022	Jose Barrero, SS	Orioles
2023	Elly De La Cruz, SS	Reds
2024	Noelvi Marte, 3B	Reds
2025	Rhett Lowder, RHP	Reds

THE FUTURE: Stewart's bat is MLB ready. With the Reds' needing improved production at the infield corners, he will fill a clear team hole if he can be an everyday first baseman who can play second or third base sporadically. On a team that needs better production from the infield corners, Stewart's bat should be heavily relied on in 2026 and beyond.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.309	118	437	78	135	34	0	20	80	46	77	17	.383	.524
2025	21	Cincinnati (NL)	MLB	.255	18	55	11	14	1	0	5	8	3	15	0	.293	.545

STRAUSS
STEWART
NOK
KATE WOOLSON/CINCINNATI REDS/GETTY IMAGES

2 ALFREDO **DUNO** C

HIT: 40. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 45.

Born: January 7, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 248.
Signed: Venezuela, 2023. **Signed by:** Reds international scouting department.

TRACK RECORD: The key signing in the Reds' 2023 international class, Duno had been limited to DH in 2023 because of a sore arm, and he barely played in 2024 because of a rib injury. Fully healthy in 2025, Duno was the star of the Florida State League. He finished second in the league with a .287 batting average and first in home runs (18), doubles (32), on-base percentage (.430) and slugging (.518). He then played in the Arizona Fall League.
SCOUTING REPORT: Few young hitters come close to Duno's advanced understanding of the strike zone. His career .425 OBP ranks fourth-best among active minor league hitters with at least 750 plate appearances. He will not swing at pitches out of the zone, which made him many Low-A pitchers' kryptonite. That approach will be more tested at higher levels, and Duno will have to make adjustments. He has a pull-heavy approach and struggles to cover the outer third of the plate. He was especially vulnerable to velocity away, with a 52% swing-and-miss rate on fastballs on the outer third of the strike zone. Duno's long levers and modest bat-to-ball skills mean that he is unlikely to hit for average against better pitchers, but he could make up for it by drawing walks, and his exceptional power could get him to 25 home runs regularly. Duno moves well for his 6-foot-3, 248-pound size. He's a below-average runner but not a base clogger. Defensively, he's a fringe-average receiver and pitch-framer. He has a plus arm and posts plus pop times at his best, but he sometimes struggles with slow exchanges as he unfurls his body.
THE FUTURE: Duno can likely stay behind the plate at his size, but not if he gets much bigger. Just 10 catchers in MLB history have caught at least 500 games while weighing 245 pounds or more, though AJ Pierzynski and Salvador Perez show it can be done.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Daytona (FSL)	A	.287	113	390	78	112	32	2	18	81	95	91	6	.430	.518

3 RHETT **LOWDER** RHP

FB: 50. **SL:** 65. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: March 8, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 205.
Drafted: Wake Forest, 2023 (1st round). **Signed by:** Charlie Aliano.

TRACK RECORD: Drafted seventh overall in 2023, Lowder made his MLB debut at the end of August 2024 and was expected to pitch in the Reds' rotation in 2025. Instead, he was sidelined by cascade of injuries. It was the first time he had ever missed significant time with injury, going back to high school. Lowder had a forearm strain in spring training and then made four minor league appearances in May before injuring his oblique and missing the rest of the season, save for one September rehab start. He threw just 9.1 total innings but showed he was healthy with a stint in the Arizona Fall League.
SCOUTING REPORT: When he returned from his injuries, Lowder did so with a slightly modified delivery. He removed a modest hand pump he used before bringing his hands back down to his waist prior to hand break. He's also more direct to the plate. Before the change, Lowder had a tendency to get a bit cross-fire toward first base with his lower half as he got down the mound. His stuff showed no degradation in the AFL. He pitched at 93-96 mph with his pair of fastballs and a plus-plus high-80s slider that he can manipulate into different shapes. Lowder will need to separate his two- and four-seam fastballs more effectively in the majors. His four-seamer is most effective as a chase pitch above the zone, which changes eye levels and keeps hitters from sitting on his two-seamer and slider. His changeup will flash above-average, but he doesn't use it enough. Everything plays up because of Lowder's plus control and command.
THE FUTURE: Lowder has the control and stuff to be a solid midrotation arm. He was ready to handle that role in 2025 and, healthy again, should be ready to step into the MLB rotation in 2026. His return should help give the Reds enviable depth in the rotation, where he could team with fellow homegrown pitchers Hunter Greene, Andrew Abbott, Nick Lodolo and Chase Burns.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	23	Minors (3 teams)	Rk,A+,AAA	0	3	10.61	5	5	9	15	2	3	13	1.9	6.1	26.5	1.93

4 TYSON **LEWIS** SS

HIT: 40. **POW:** 65. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: January 10, 2006. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 195.
Drafted: HS—Omaha, NE, 2024 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Mike Keenan.

TRACK RECORD: After leading Omaha's Millard West High to a Nebraska state title, Lewis became the highest-drafted prep hitter in state history when the Reds selected him with the 51st pick of the 2024 draft. He was one of the most productive hitters in the Arizona Complex League in 2025, and he was one of the better hitters in the Low-A Florida State League over the second half of the season.
SCOUTING REPORT: As productive as Lewis was in his pro debut, the Reds are excited about what he might yet become. He is a long, lean, lefthanded hitter with plenty of room to fill out further, but he already hits the ball exceptionally hard. He had the highest 90th percentile exit velocity of all minor league teenagers with at least 100 plate appearances in 2025. His swing has a high finish that leads to majestic lofted home runs at his best, but he often lets the ball get deep on him, limiting him to driving the ball to left field. He began to show more pull-side power late in the 2025 season. Defensively, Lewis' footwork limits him at shortstop, but his plus arm makes up for some of his other limitations. He's an above-average runner underway, but he needs time to get to speed and doesn't have a quick first step. His tool set would fit at third base or in center field if he eventually slides off shortstop.
THE FUTURE: The Reds had Lewis play some third base in instructional league. They aren't ruling out him staying at shortstop, but his bat should fit at multiple positions. Even scouts who aren't as enamored of Lewis believe he's a big leaguer. Some see an impact regular, especially if he gets bigger and stronger, as expected. Lewis should spend the majority of 2026 at High-A Dayton. He had the kind of power potential the Reds have lacked in recent years.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.311	81	315	65	98	16	6	9	54	29	102	27	.376	.486

Alfredo
Duno

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Hector Rodriguez
Best Power Hitter	Tyson Lewis
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Alfredo Duno
Fastest Baserunner	Steele Hall
Best Athlete	Steele Hall

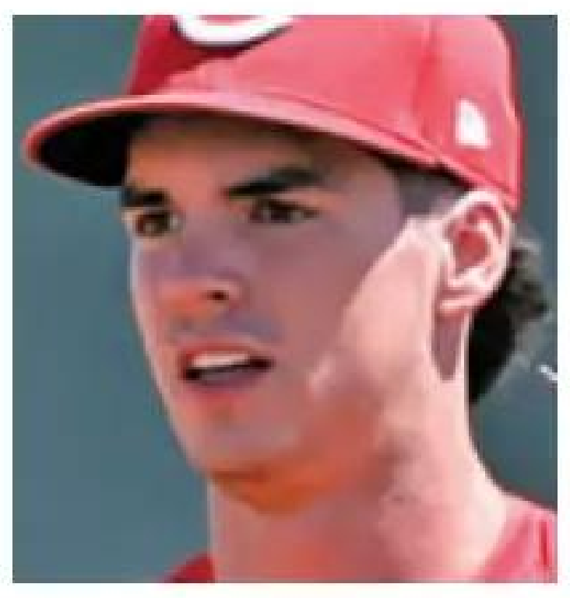
PITCHING

Best Fastball	Zach Maxwell
Best Curveball	Connor Phillips
Best Slider	Rhett Lowder
Best Changeup	Jose Acuña
Best Control	Rhett Lowder

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Connor Burns
Best Defensive Infielder	Edwin Arroyo
Best Infield Arm	Ricardo Cabrera
Best Defensive Outfielder	Jay Allen
Best Outfield Arm	Rece Hinds

5 STEELE **HALL** SS



HIT: 45. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 80. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: July 24, 2007. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 180.
Drafted: HS—Trussville, AL, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** JR Reynolds

TRACK RECORD: Hall was supposed to be one of the top high school prospects in the loaded 2026 draft class, but he opted to reclassify to be eligible a year earlier. It paid off. He impressed the Reds when he matched college hitters swing for swing in a pre-draft workout, and Cincinnati responded by drafting Hall ninth overall in 2025 as the first shortstop it had selected with a top 10 pick since Barry Larkin in 1985. Like most Reds draftees, Hall did not get into an official game after the draft, but he showed elite speed and some power in the unofficial bridge league.
SCOUTING REPORT: The day he signed, Hall became the best athlete in the Reds' minor league system, and the best in the organization other than Elly De La Cruz. Hall is a top-of-the-scale runner. A twitchy athlete, he gets out of the box extremely quickly and can embarrass inattentive outfielders by turning singles into doubles. Defensively, Hall has the first step, solid hands and above-average arm to make all routine plays at shortstop and produce highlight plays at his best. The Reds believe in his power potential. He has a quick bat, with plenty of hand speed and athleticism. But there is some length in his setup and load that could affect his timing at the plate. He struggled with spin at times in the bridge league, but he should be able to develop into a fringe-average to average hitter with average power.
THE FUTURE: The Reds are more conservative than many organizations with how quickly they move their prospects. The club sent prep shortstops Sammy Stafura and Tyson Lewis to the Rookie-level Arizona Complex League the year after they were drafted. Hall could follow that path, but he was drafted much higher than Stafura or Lewis and is more polished. If Hall develops, he could be a top-of-the-order hitter who plays above-average defense at shortstop.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Did not play															

6 CHASE **PETTY** RHP

FB: 55. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 45. **SW:** 45. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: April 4, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—Linwood, NJ, 2021 (1st round). **Signed by:** John Wilson (Twins).

TRACK RECORD: Petty has learned how to pitch with different arsenals since the Twins drafted him in the first round in 2021 and then traded him to the Reds in the March 2022 Sonny Gray trade. Petty threw 100 mph in high school, but with an all-arms-and-elbows delivery that was hard to maintain. He smoothed out his delivery and geared down to become a low-90s sinkerballer. After improving his control, his velocity eventually returned. Petty made his MLB debut in 2025, but otherwise it was a year to forget. His 6.39 ERA in the International League was second worst among pitchers with at least 100 innings, and he was rocked in three MLB outings.

SCOUTING REPORT: As bad as Petty was in 2025, he has the stuff to be an MLB starter if his command and control improve. His pitch movement has proven to be his enemy. Everything he throws has more armside run than is typical. That makes him a bit unusual—which is good—but no pitch is a true bat-misser. Even after adding a fringe-average mid-80s sweeper, he struggles to consistently force righthanded hitters to defend the outer third of the zone. In 2025, he struggled to locate his four-seam fastball to his glove side. Petty's strike rate had dropped from 65% in 2023 to 63% in 2024 to 61% in 2025. He also has a hard, cutterish gyro slider in the low 90s and a hard, high-80s changeup. None of Petty's pitches grades as plus. His four-seam fastball has above-average velocity, but it's a groundball pitch.

THE FUTURE: Petty will pitch as a 23-year-old in 2026, so the Reds have every reason to be patient. He has to improve his ability to locate within the strike zone, and he now projects as a durable back-end starter—or possible leverage reliever—more than a midrotation arm.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Louisville (IL)	AAA	6	13	6.39	26	26	113	123	17	58	102	1.4	11.2	19.6	1.61
2025	22	Cincinnati (NL)	MLB	0	3	19.50	3	2	6	14	3	8	7	4.5	20.0	17.5	3.67

7 EDWIN **ARROYO** SS

HIT: 50. **POW:** 30. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 25, 2003. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 173.
Drafted: HS—Kissimmee, FL, 2021 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Rob Mummau (Mariners).

TRACK RECORD: One of the youngest players in the 2021 draft class, Arroyo made a strong initial impression with the Mariners, his drafting organization. That led to the Reds acquiring him along with Noelvi Marte in the 2022 trade that sent Luis Castillo to Seattle. Arroyo made steady progress until 2024, when he injured his left labrum diving into first base in a spring training game. He had surgery and didn't return to action until the Arizona Fall League. After a slow start at Double-A Chattanooga in 2025, he hit a team-best .296/.357/.403 from July 1 onward.

SCOUTING REPORT: Arroyo produced 49 extra-base hits in 2022 in Class A as an 18-year-old. At that point, the hope was that his power would continue to develop, making him a plus shortstop defender who could also hit in the middle of the lineup. Arroyo's power has flat-lined since then, and it's more likely he will be a bottom-of-the-order bat. The switch-hitter's swings start with an extremely open stance, and he uses a very wide setup. He has excellent plate coverage, and an aggressive approach, but everything he does is geared toward contact rather than generating power. Arroyo rarely stings the ball, but he loves to use the opposite field and is a potentially average hitter. He's truly ambidextrous and pitched as a lefthander as a kid. Arroyo is an above-average, reliable shortstop with quick hands and a good internal clock. He has the body control to make acrobatic and accurate spinning throws on balls up the middle, though his above-average arm isn't as adept at plays deep in the hole. He is an above-average runner.

THE FUTURE: Arroyo needs to be added to the 40-man roster this offseason to protect him from the Rule 5 draft. He's ready to head to Triple-A Louisville, where he should add second and third base versatility and be the on-call option if the Reds need an extra infielder.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Chattanooga (SL)	AA	.284	120	464	63	132	23	4	3	44	40	88	12	.345	.371

8 CAM **COLLIER** 1B/3B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: November 20, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 235.
Drafted: Chipola (FL) JC, 2022 (1st round). **Signed by:** Sean Buckley.

TRACK RECORD: Collier's season started inauspiciously when he injured his left thumb in spring training and required surgery. He didn't get back to Double-A Chattanooga until mid June. He struggled to shake off rust and his power never made it fully back, though he batted .337/.425/.452 in his final 27 games. Collier hit four home runs in 2025 after hitting 20 in 2024. He went to the Arizona Fall League to make up for some of the lost time. He is the son of former MLB infielder Lou Collier.

SCOUTING REPORT: Even in his fourth pro season, Collier showed that he has a massive gulf between what he is and what he could be. At his best, Collier can be a game-changing hitter, but he has long stretches where he seems lost at the plate. When he keeps lower half in sync, he can drive 110 mph home runs that turn outfielders into onlookers. When he's struggling, his swing becomes way too rotational, leaving his legs disconnected. He gets out front, relying entirely on his hands to do all the work in his swing. That produces stretches of rolled-over ground balls. He's generally been ineffective against lefthanders, with a sub-.600 OPS in 2024 and 2025. Defensively, Collier was in better shape post-injury, which helped his flexibility, but he remains a below-average fielder at third base with questionable hands. He can makes easy plays look difficult. Collier played more first base than third in 2025, a trend that is likely to continue. He has an above-average arm.

THE FUTURE: The 2025 season was somewhat of a lost one for Collier, and Sal Stewart's big step forward means that Collier's path to Cincinnati has gotten more complicated. To make his case for the Reds' first base job, Collier has to become a more consistent hitter.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (3 teams)	Rk,A+,AA	.279	95	333	48	93	21	1	4	48	59	104	1	.391	.384

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PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	**Hunter Greene**	29
No. 2 Starter	Chase Burns	26
No. 3 Starter	Rhett Lowder	27
No. 4 Starter	Andrew Abbott	30
No. 5 Starter	Chase Petty	26
Closer	Luis Mey	28

Catcher	Alfredo Duno	23
First Base	Sal Stewart	25
Second Base	Matt McLain	30
Third Base	Edwin Arroyo	25
Shortstop	Elly De La Cruz	27
Left Field	Tyson Lewis	23
Center Field	Steele Hall	22
Right Field	Noelvi Marte	27
Designated Hitter	Cam Collier	24

9 HECTOR **RODRIGUEZ** OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: March 11, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 200.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2021. **Signed by:** Moises De La Mota/Oliver Dominguez (Mets.)

TRACK RECORD: A signee of the Mets out of the Dominican Republic in 2021, Rodriguez was quickly traded to the Reds in July 2022 in the trade that sent Tyler Naquin and Phillip Diehl to the Mets. Rodriguez began his career as a speedy second baseman, but he quickly slowed down while also getting stronger. He now is a full-time corner outfielder, but one who has been one of the Reds' most consistent minor league hitters. He has never hit below .280 in a pro season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Rodriguez has long been one of the most swing-happy hitters in the minors, but he's also always had the barrel control and hand-eye coordination to avoid the worst drawbacks of his hyper-aggressive approach. It's hard to beat Rodriguez in the strike zone, and he handles fastballs, breaking balls and changeups alike. His aggressiveness means he posts modest on-base percentages. Rodriguez shows less power, but otherwise stands in well against lefthanders. He has fringe-average power, largely to his pull side, but considering he was only 21, there could be more power as he continues to mature. In the outfield, Rodriguez is a fringe-average defender at best. He can snare a sinking liner from time to time, but is extremely cautious when going back to the wall. His average arm is accurate and he hits the cutoff man. His above-average speed is better used on the basepaths, though he's not an aggressive basestealer.

THE FUTURE: Rodriguez's combination of contact skills and average power puts him on the border between being a potential regular and a possible platoon outfielder. His defensive limitations hurt him, but as a lefthanded hitter who makes plenty of contact, he could make it to Cincinnati in 2026. He needs to be added to the 40-man roster this offseason to protect him from the Rule 5 draft.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.283	135	527	92	149	23	4	19	65	40	86	15	.336	.450

10 STHARLIN **TORRES** RHP

FB: 55. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: June 19, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 182.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024. **Signed by:** Jenfry Del Rosario/Jose Diaz/Enmanuel Cartagena.

TRACK RECORD: As a kid growing up in the Dominican Republic, Torres lived to play baseball and imagined himself as a big league shortstop. By the time he was a teenager, he had realized that his future was on the mound. Signed by the Reds in January 2024, Torres has toyed with hitters in his first two pro seasons. He threw four innings of a combined seven-inning no-hitter in the Dominican Summer League in 2024. He held hitters to sub-.550 OPS in each of his first two pro seasons, and his 4.9% walk rate in 2025 was one of the best in the Arizona Complex League.

SCOUTING REPORT: Torres' combination of present stuff and advanced control and command jumped out, especially in the context of the ACL, where few pitchers fill the zone. Torres sits at 93-94 mph but should get to 95-97 on a consistent basis in a few years. His sinker generates weak contact because of his ability to dot the zone with it, and his four-seam fastball gets swings and misses up in the zone thanks to above-average life to go with a flat plane. He's also shown advanced aptitude for his age. Torres quickly refined and made his slider harder to go with a bigger, slower curveball, and he's showing feel for an above-average changeup with late fade. He shows the ability to manipulate his change, spotting it in the zone for strikes and then burying it out of the zone to induce chases.

THE FUTURE: There are not many teenagers with Torres' advanced ability to spot multiple pitches all around the strike zone. He has the savvy and stuff to be one of the best pitchers in the Low-A Florida State League in 2026, and there is a chance that he could force a promotion to Dayton if he dominates. He projects as a potential midrotation starter, though he will only be 20 in 2026 and has plenty of development ahead.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	19	ACL Reds	Rk	0	1	1.88	10	6	38	26	2	7	44	0.5	4.9	30.6	0.86

TOM DIPACE (DUNO), BILL MITCHELL (HALL), KATELYN MULCAHY/MLB PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES (GREENE)

TOP 10

COLORADO ROCKIES

by JESÚS CANO

1 ETHAN HOLLIDAY SS

HIT: 50. **POW:** 65. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 45.

Born: February 23, 2007. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 210.
Drafted: HS—Stillwater, OK, 2025 (1st round).
Signed by: Jesse Retzlaff

TRACK RECORD: Holliday was viewed as a potential No. 1 pick through much of the lead-up to the 2025 draft. But when the first three teams passed, he wound up coming home, in a sense, to the Rockies. Colorado drafted Ethan's father Matt Holliday back in 1998, while his younger brother Jackson Holliday was the No. 1 overall pick in 2022 and is currently the Orioles' second baseman. With those bloodlines, Ethan has long been on the radar of scouts, first drawing attention as a freshman at Stillwater High in Oklahoma. While his last name commands attention, Ethan's talent stands on its own and he was recognized as BA's 2025 High School Player of the Year. The Rockies signed him for $9 million, a bonus record for a high school player. After a brief two-week stint in the Arizona bridge league, Holliday began his pro career with Low-A Fresno, where he hit .239 with two home runs and a concerning 39% strikeout rate. That was the third-worst strikeout rate by a first-round pick in his draft year in the past decade—minimum 50 plate appearances—bettering only Elijah Green and Vance Honeycutt.

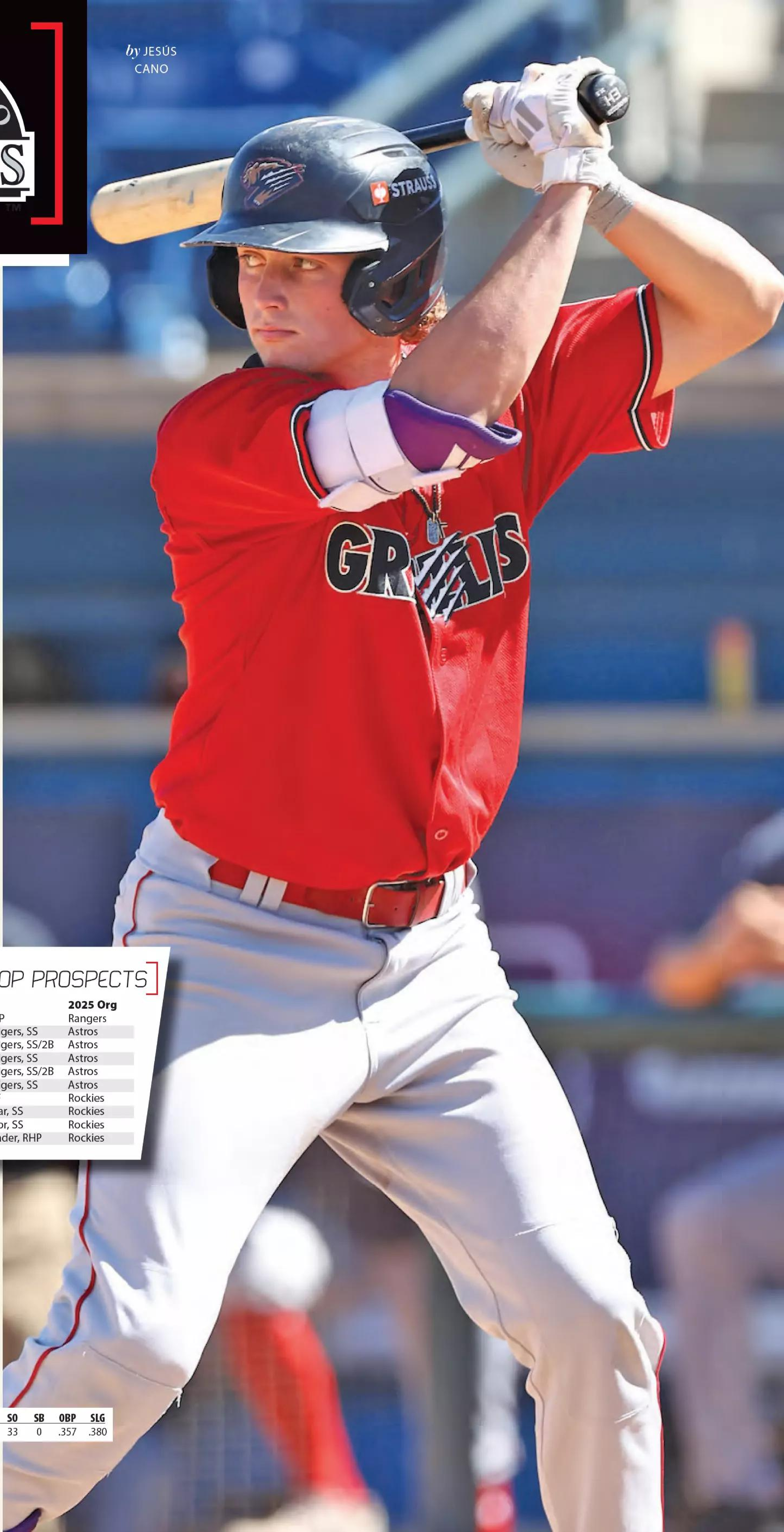
SCOUTING REPORT: Physically, Holliday resembles his father more than his older brother Jackson. He is a well-built lefthanded hitter with the 6-foot-4, 195-pound frame to be a powerful slugger. At the plate, he utilizes a fluid and powerful swing with natural rhythm and balance. He's particularly advanced at pitch recognition, showing the ability to lay off borderline pitches and work deep into counts. Holliday is comfortable taking walks when pitchers refuse to challenge him. He sprays the ball to all fields and doesn't need to over-swing to tap into his raw power—with some scouts projecting legitimate 30-homer upside. But in his pro debut, he was too easy to beat in the strike zone. He swung and missed nearly 43% of the time in 2025, which was among the worst rates in the minors. Holliday will need to shorten his stroke, because he can be beat by quality stuff too often. He should have the strength to do so without sacrificing much power. Scouts said that his bat speed and feel for the zone suggest he could make those adjustments with time and experience. Defensively, Holliday has solid hands and enough arm to handle shortstop for now, but as his frame continues to fill out, a move to third base, a corner outfield spot, or possibly first base appears likely. He's made noticeable strides in his footwork and defensive consistency. He's a below-average runner but has solid instincts on the basepaths.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Jon Gray, RHP	Rangers
2017	Brendan Rodgers, SS	Astros
2018	Brendan Rodgers, SS/2B	Astros
2019	Brendan Rodgers, SS	Astros
2020	Brendan Rodgers, SS/2B	Astros
2021	Brendan Rodgers, SS	Astros
2022	Zac Veen, OF	Rockies
2023	Ezequiel Tovar, SS	Rockies
2024	Adael Amador, SS	Rockies
2025	Chase Dollander, RHP	Rockies

THE FUTURE: Despite his initial struggles in his pro debut, Holliday has the building blocks to be a cornerstone player for the Rockies. His blend of power, plate discipline and defensive flexibility provides a solid foundation to develop into a dependable everyday player. If he makes more consistent contact, the rest of his game could make him an impact hitter.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Fresno (CAL)	A	.239	18	71	14	17	4	0	2	6	12	33	0	.357	.380



2 CHARLIE **CONDON** 1B

HIT: 50. **POW:** 70. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: April 14, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-6. **WT:** 216.
Drafted: Georgia, 2024 (1st round). **Signed by:** Sean Gamble.

TRACK RECORD: Condon quickly emerged as one of the premier hitters in the 2024 draft class, showcasing elite power at Georgia. He led the nation in batting average and slugging while setting a BBCOR record with 37 home runs and winning College Player of the Year. The Rockies drafted Condon third overall and signed him for $9.25 million, tying the record for the largest draft bonus ever. His pro debut was cut short by a hand injury. Then he broke his wrist diving to catch a ball during spring training in 2025, which delayed his start at High-A Spokane until May 21. Condon advanced to Double-A Hartford in July and hit 14 homers between the two stops.

SCOUTING REPORT: Standing 6-foot-6 with long levers and a well-proportioned, athletic frame, Condon presents an intimidating figure in the batter's box. His swing is low-maintenance and mechanically sound. He uses a controlled toe-tap and compact load to get on plane efficiently and generate consistent lift. While his exceptional raw power is undeniable, Condon has struggled against breaking balls and changeups in pro ball, with elevated whiff rates pointing to issues with recognition and timing. There were encouraging signs of progress in 2025. His chase rate declined, indicating improved plate discipline, and he continued to produce top-tier exit velocities. However, he posted an overall whiff rate near 30% and an in-zone rate of 22%. Condon played third base and outfield in college but has focused mostly at first base as a pro. He is playable there with below-average speed and an above-average arm.

THE FUTURE: One of the biggest projects for the new Rockies front office is to help Condon maximize his power and improve his contact rate. He has a chance to be a middle-of-the-lineup cornerstone, but his 2025 struggles raise questions about his ability to reach that ceiling.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (3 teams)	Rk,A+,AA	.268	99	365	59	98	16	3	14	58	52	112	2	.376	.444

3 JARED **THOMAS** OF

HIT: 50. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: July 1, 2003. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: Texas, 2024 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Garrick Chaffee.

TRACK RECORD: Thomas emerged in his draft year at Texas, hitting .349/.434/.635 with 16 home runs and 18 stolen bases in 60 games as an eligible sophomore. The Rockies drafted him in the second round in 2024 and signed him for $2 million. Thomas shined at High-A Spokane in the first half of 2025, posting a .922 OPS in 73 games, before scuffling in 45 games for Double-A Hartford as his strikeout rate spiked to nearly 35%. He led the Rockies' system in both walks (70) and strikeouts (145).

SCOUTING REPORT: The 6-foot-2, 190-pound Thomas is an average athlete who moves well for his size. He began his pro career playing primarily center field, but when he moved to Hartford, he slid to left field, which is a better long-term fit. Thomas' move to Double-A also exposed the key area of concern: swing-and-miss issues, particularly against better sequencing and breaking stuff. Still, when he makes contact, it is often loud contact—supported by consistently high exit velocities and quality barrel rates. While Thomas' approach leans toward aggression, he generally recognizes pitches well enough to do damage in the zone. His power surge at Texas carried over to Spokane, suggesting that he might one day produce at least average power. Encouragingly, his groundball rate remains low, indicating a swing geared for lift and power. Originally a first baseman in college, Thomas is now a full-time outfielder. He lacks the speed for center but is serviceable on the corners with above-average speed and an average arm.

THE FUTURE: Given the learning curve Thomas experienced at Double-A, he should start in Hartford again. Since he is largely limited to the outfield corners and first base, developing his power will be crucial to determining whether he can be an everyday regular or a useful lefthanded-hitting role player with average or better tools across the board.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.300	118	454	92	136	23	2	14	60	70	145	33	.398	.452

4 BRODY **BRECHT** RHP

FB: 60. **CB:** 40. SL: 60. **CH:** 40. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: September 27, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 235.
Drafted: Iowa, 2024 (1st round supp). **Signed by:** Brett Baldwin.

TRACK RECORD: A two-sport athlete when he got to campus at Iowa, Brecht was a wide receiver in football and righthanded pitcher on the diamond. On the football field, he redshirted as a freshman and then caught nine passes for 87 yards in 2022. He then shelved football to focus on pitching and became the Hawkeyes' ace in 2023 and 2024. The transition cemented him as one of the better arms in the college class, though his wildness was a concern, which pushed him outside the top 30 picks. The Rockies drafted Brecht 38th overall in 2024. He impressed in his pro debut for Low-A Fresno in 2025, though he missed a month and a half with a back injury.

SCOUTING REPORT: Scouts are enamored of Brecht's four-seam fastball. He touched triple-digits in college and sat 95 mph and peaked at 98 in 2025. The pitch lacks consistent ride or heavy armside run and does not project as a pitch that will generate exceptional swing-and-miss at the top of the zone. He made significant strides in pro ball by consistently attacking the zone, addressing some of the control concerns that lingered from college. He posted a strong 36.1% strikeout rate and allowed just two home runs over 55.1 innings. Brecht's arsenal is headlined by his upper-80s cut-slider, which serves as both a reliable strike-getter and a swing-and-miss weapon. His fastball remains a work in progress in terms of movement, but its velocity makes it a potentially plus offering. He also mixes in a below-average split changeup in the low 90s and a below-average mid-80s curveball that offers more depth than his slider.

THE FUTURE: Brecht should start the 2026 season at High-A Spokane. His athleticism and two-sport background provide hope that there's more to come. He has a shot of developing into a midrotation starter, with a fallback option of being a power reliever who can throw 100 mph in short stints.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	1	5	2.51	20	20	61	48	2	35	95	0.3	13.3	36.1	1.36

Charlie Condon

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Roldy Brito
Best Power Hitter	Charlie Condon
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Wilder Dalis
Fastest Baserunner	Roldy Brito
Best Athlete	Roldy Brito

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Wellinton Herrera
Best Curveball	Luichi Casilla
Best Slider	Brody Brecht
Best Changeup	Brody Brecht
Best Control	Sean Sullivan

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Cole Messina
Best Defensive Infielder	Ashly Andujar
Best Infield Arm	Ashly Andujar
Best Defensive Outfielder	Cole Carrigg
Best Outfield Arm	Cole Carrigg

5 ROLDY **BRITO** OF/2B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 70. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: April 8, 2007. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 186.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024. **Signed by:** Rolando Fernandez/Omar Frias.

TRACK RECORD: When the Rockies signed Brito for $420,000 out of the Dominican Republic in 2024, they believed he was the best pure hitter in their international class. He has quickly lived up to that projection. Brito led the Arizona Complex League with a .368 batting average in 2025, and he posted the league's second-best on-base percentage at .445 and third-best slugging percentage at .555. That earned him a promotion to Low-A Fresno, and he had the second-best batting average (.375) in the California League over the final month and a half of the season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Brito can flat-out hit, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. He was one of the standout performers in the ACL, impressing scouts with his plate discipline, a mature approach and an ability to work deep counts. A switch-hitter with developing pull-side power from both sides, Brito could grow into more over-the-fence pop as he fills out his athletic 5-foot-11 frame. His double-plus speed is a weapon. He stole 34 bases between the ACL and Low-A Fresno, though he was also caught 14 times, showing that he will need to refine his reads and instincts. In the field, Brito is versatile and twitchy. A shortstop when he signed, he now splits his time between second base and center field. His wheels fit in center but he remains a capable second baseman. Additional infield reps there could boost his value, and versatility always makes a prospect more attractive to his parent club. With a dynamic skill set and high-energy game, Brito has the tools to become an impact player.

THE FUTURE: Some scouts say Brito's swing and switch-hitting ability is reminiscent of Diamondbacks shortstop Geraldo Perdomo. Brito will be 19 in 2026 and likely will start at Low-A Fresno.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.371	84	318	72	118	20	7	4	38	36	69	35	.444	.516

LARRY GOREN/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (HOLLIDAY), RUSTY JONES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (CONDON), BILL MITCHELL (BRITO)

6 COLE CARRIGG OF

HIT: 45. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 60. **ARM:** 70. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 35.

Born: May 8, 2002. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 200.
Drafted: San Diego State, 2023 (2nd round supp). **Signed by:** Matt Hattabaugh.

TRACK RECORD: Few players have pulled off the trifecta of capably playing catcher, shortstop and center field, but Carrigg did exactly that. He played every position other than first base and right field at San Diego State, and then he caught, in addition to playing shortstop and center field, in his pro debut in 2023 after the Rockies drafted him. Carrigg hung up the chest protector in 2024, and he gave up shortstop in 2025 to focus on center field.

SCOUTING REPORT: Carrigg is a tall, athletic switch-hitter with a well-rounded skill set and the versatility to impact the game in multiple ways. His disappointing 2025 campaign at Double-A Hartford can be at last partially attributed to over-aggressiveness. Carrigg features a long-levered swing typical of many Rockies prospects, which contributes to elevated chase and miss rates. This approach has made him especially vulnerable to spin and offspeed pitches. He is comfortable serving the ball to right field or yanking it to left field, but he almost never drives the ball to center. Carrigg hit 11 of his 15 homers in 2025 against fastballs. If he makes enough contact, he could hit 15-20 home runs a season. He has the plus speed to steal bases efficiently. Carrigg is the Rockies' best minor league center fielder, with the range to cover the massive center field expanse of Coors Field. Scouts said he uses his speed to take good routes, while his plus-plus arm is a weapon.

THE FUTURE: While 2025 marked the toughest season of his career, Carrigg's tools remain intact, and with adjustments to his approach, he still has a chance to have a role as an everyday player. His defense, athleticism and speed make him a useful player if he hits enough to make an impact, but, like a number of Rockies prospects, he has to make better swing decisions to make it all work.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	23	Hartford (EL)	AA	.237	123	477	81	113	18	6	15	64	45	145	46	.316	.394

7 MAX BELYEU OF

HIT: 50. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: December 15, 2003. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 215.
Drafted: Texas, 2025 (2nd round supp). **Signed by:** Garrick Chaffee.

TRACK RECORD: Belyeu was named Big 12 Conference player of the year at Texas in 2024. He followed up that campaign with a summer stint on USA Baseball's Collegiate National Team and got off to a strong start in 2025 before a thumb injury sidelined him for about a month. Over three seasons with the Longhorns, Belyeu hit .318/.414/.616 with 27 home runs, a 25% strikeout rate and an 11.5% walk rate. The Rockies drafted him with the final pick of competitive balance round B following the second round in 2025 and inked him for $1.1 million. His pro debut was a struggle. Belyeu struck out 35.5% of the time while hitting .150 in 21 games for High-A Spokane, though he did homer four times.

SCOUTING REPORT: Belyeu is a strong, physically developed 6-foot-2, 215-pound lefthanded hitter with a compact swing and quick hands. He takes an aggressive approach at the plate and is prone to chasing pitches. Belyeu's plate discipline showed steady improvement throughout his college career, but it regressed dramatically in his brief pro debut. He possesses solid-average raw power and projects to hit 20–25 home runs with further refinement. On the bases, Belyeu isn't a burner, but he's a hustling runner who moves well once underway and grades out as average in terms of speed. He is an average defender in right field, where his plus arm could be an asset.

THE FUTURE: Like many Rockies hitting prospects, Belyeu needs to hit to profile as a big leaguer, because he is a corner outfielder without a lot of defensive potential. His struggles in Spokane gave him a solid understanding of how he needs to work to recognize pitches better and focus on making more consistent contact. He should head back to the Northwest League to begin 2026.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Spokane (NWL)	A+	.150	21	80	13	12	0	0	4	9	9	32	3	.244	.300

8 JACKSON COX RHP

FB: 55. **CB:** 60. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 40. **CT:** 45. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: September 25, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 185.
Drafted: HS—Toutle, WA, 2022 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Matt Pignataro.

TRACK RECORD: Cox entered the 2022 draft as one of the most intriguing high school arms available, thanks to his exceptional high-spin curveball. The Rockies selected him in the second round and signed him for $1.85 million, banking on his combination of spin, athleticism and upside. His pro career had barely gotten going when he had Tommy John surgery in July 2023. Cox made his return in 2024 at instructional league, where he showed encouraging signs of regaining the bite and feel on his breaking pitches. Assigned to Low-A Fresno in 2025, he ran up a 15.43 ERA in his first four starts but pitched to a 2.31 ERA in his remaining 19 starts.

SCOUTING REPORT: Cox's combination of present stuff and a well-varied arsenal stands out in an organization thin on starting pitching prospects. He attacks hitters with a five-pitch mix that includes a four-seam fastball, curveball, slider, changeup and cutter. His 94-95 mph fastball sits in the 93-94 mph range and can touch 98, showing late hop and life through the zone. His best pitch remains his plus curveball, a high-spin, two-plane breaker that consistently measures between 2,800–3,000 rpm and serves as a legitimate out pitch. Cox rounds out his arsenal with an average mid-80s sweeper, a firm below-average upper-80s changeup, and a developing low-90s fringe-average cutter. He has no issues throwing his fastball for strikes, but he needs to figure out how to land his curveball and sweeper in the zone at a higher clip.

THE FUTURE: Cox's combination of velocity, spin and his ability to develop different pitches gives him a chance to develop into a solid midrotation starter in an organization that has struggled recently to develop starting pitchers. He should head to High-A Spokane to start 2026.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Fresno (CAL)	A	4	6	3.39	23	23	85	70	12	25	92	1.3	7.3	27.0	1.12

SEAN M. HAFFEY/GETTY IMAGES (TOVAR)

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Chase Dollander	27
No. 2 Starter	Brody Brecht	27
No. 3 Starter	Jackson Cox	28
No. 4 Starter	Sandy Ozuna	23
No. 5 Starter	Luichi Casilla	25
Closer	Welinton Herrera	25

Catcher	Hunter Goodman	30
First Base	Charlie Condon	26
Second Base	Roldy Brito	22
Third Base	Ethan Holliday	22
Shortstop	**Ezequiel Tovar**	28
Left Field	Jared Thomas	26
Center Field	Cole Carrigg	27
Right Field	Max Belyeu	25
Designated Hitter	Kyle Karros	27

9 ROBERT CALAZ OF

HIT: 40. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Extreme. **Adj:** 30.

Born: November 11, 2005. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 202.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2023. **Signed by:** Orlando Covo.

TRACK RECORD: Calaz signed with the Rockies for $1.7 million in 2023, touted as a polished power hitter with a physically mature frame. That promise quickly showed in the 2023 Dominican Summer League and carried over into an eye-catching U.S. debut in 2024. He began the year in the Arizona Complex League, where he hit .349/.462/.651 with 10 home runs before earning a promotion to Low-A Fresno. Calaz's progress stalled in 2025, when his plate discipline regressed significantly. He batted .259 with 110 strikeouts against just 37 walks in 99 games.

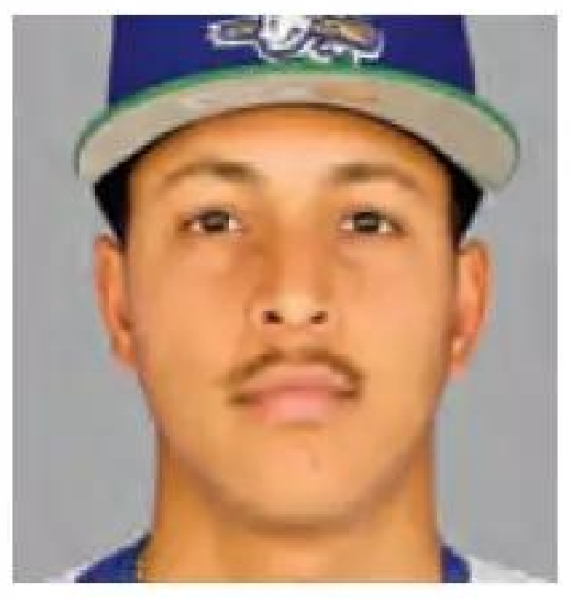
SCOUTING REPORT: Calaz stands 6-foot-2 with room to add more strength to an already-mature frame. He brings explosive raw power to the plate, though his game remains a bit unrefined. Swing-and-miss concerns have followed him since signing—a common caveat with young, power-first hitters—but they've become more pronounced. Calaz's swing starts with an extremely high hand-set, and he sometimes rests the bat on his shoulder before using a waggle to start his trigger. That means he has plenty of length to his swing, which generates big power, but also makes him vulnerable to elevated fastballs and pitchers who can disrupt his timing. Despite the swing-and-miss issues, Calaz's upside remains enticing. He consistently produces some of the highest exit velocities in the Rockies' system, and given his age, there's still physical projection remaining. Defensively, he's a below-average runner who is a fringe-average corner outfielder. He has an above-average arm that adds value in right field.

THE FUTURE: Calaz struggled for the first time as a pro in 2025. He'll jump to High-A Spokane in 2026, looking to bounce back. He has the power potential to be a solid big league regular, but only if he refines his approach and cleans up his swing.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Fresno (CAL)	A	.259	99	371	50	96	16	3	10	55	37	110	7	.338	.399

10 WELINTON HERRERA LHP

FB: 60. SL: 60. **CH:** 40. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 30



Born: April 3, 2004. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 166.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2021. **Signed by:** Rolando Fernandez.

TRACK RECORD: The Rockies signed Herrera out of the Dominican Republic in 2021, and he spent two years in the Dominican Summer League and one in the Arizona Complex League, working almost exclusively as a reliever in all three seasons. He advanced to full-season ball in 2024, making a pair of Class A stops. Herrera began to pick up steam in 2025, when he dominated the High-A Northwest League, represented the Rockies at the Futures Game and earned a mid-May promotion to Double-A Hartford. He ranked fourth in the minors with 17 saves and pitched in the Arizona Fall League after the season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Herrera's combination of low three-quarters arm slot and above-average carry makes his 95-99 mph fastball one of the better heaters in the minors. The lefthander's fastball is almost impossible to lift. Hitters managed just .197/.287/.236 against Herrera's fastball in 2025, and the two home runs he allowed both came against his slider. Though undersized at 6 feet and 166 pounds, he compensates with a polished three-pitch arsenal and a delivery that adds a layer of deception. He pairs his fastball with a hard, low-to-mid-80s gyro slider that serves as his most-used secondary pitch, generating consistent whiffs and chase swings. Herrera worked on adding a fringy mid-80s changeup to better handle righthanded hitters, but in a one-inning relief role, a third pitch won't be necessary.

THE FUTURE: Herrera is ready for Triple-A Albuquerque, a hitter's paradise, just like Coors Field. His groundball tendencies are tailor-made for limiting damage. He is expected to be added to the 40-man roster this offseason and could pitch his way to Colorado at some point in 2026. He has the stuff to be a high-leverage reliever.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	5	5	2.64	52	0	65	49	2	25	99	0.3	9.2	36.4	1.14

TOP 10

By JOSH NORRIS

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES

1 EDUARDO QUINTERO OF

HIT: 60. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 50.

Born: September 16, 2005. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 175.
Signed: Venezuela, 2023.
Signed by: Cristian Guzman/Andres Simancas.

TRACK RECORD: Quintero signed with the Dodgers in 2023 as a catcher but quickly shifted to center field because his speed and athleticism would have been wasted behind the plate. The move paid dividends in short order, and Quintero immediately began signaling that he was one of the system's top talents. His exploits led to championships in the Dominican Summer and Arizona Complex leagues in each of his first two professional seasons, and he ranked as the No. 1 prospect in the ACL in 2024. Quintero's stock continued rising in 2025, when he racked up 19 home runs and 47 stolen bases in a season split between both Class A levels. In a system chock full of talented outfielders, Quintero's well-rounded game and high ceiling have pushed him to the top of the heap.

SCOUTING REPORT: Entering the 2025 season, there was little doubt about Quintero's ability to make contact and get on base, but his flat swing path left his future power potential in question. He and the Dodgers tweaked his swing plane in the offseason and immediately saw results after Quintero returned to Low-A Rancho Cucamonga. He added loft to his cut without sacrificing much in the way of contact and by season's end had more than tripled his career home run total. While Quintero's exit velocities stayed roughly the same, getting the ball in the air more often made a huge difference. He lowered his groundball rate from 43% in 2024 to 35.5% in 2025. The raw ingredients are there. The next steps will revolve around the finer points of becoming a complete hitter before reaching the highest level. Namely, evaluators would like to see Quintero learn the ideal times to deploy his best swings and when the wiser play would be to take what the pitcher gives him and aim for contact over impact. Other scouts would like to see Quintero take a more direct stride to the pitcher in order to allow himself as much plate coverage as possible. The 113 games Quintero played in 2025 was the highest total of his career, and he'll need to pack on a bit more strength to be as fresh as possible during the season's final months. Defensively, Quintero is the likeliest of the system's top-tier outfielders to stick in center field. He uses above-average speed to patrol all sectors of the grass fairly easily, and his above-average arm would still be useful if he had to move to a corner in deference to a better defender up the middle.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Corey Seager, SS	Rangers
2017	Cody Bellinger, 1B/OF	Yankees
2018	Walker Buehler, RHP	Phillies
2019	Keibert Ruiz, C	Nationals
2020	Gavin Lux, SS/2B	Reds
2021	Keibert Ruiz, C	Nationals
2022	Diego Cartaya, C	Giants
2023	Diego Cartaya, C	Giants
2024	Michael Busch, 3B/2B	Cubs
2025	Roki Sasaki, RHP	Dodgers

THE FUTURE: Given the glut of outfielders in the Dodgers' system and the organization's unlimited checkbook, Quintero will have to continue proving himself at every stop if he wants to be part of the club's long-term future. He will likely start back at High-A in 2026 but should get to the upper levels in short order. If everything clicks, he could be an everyday center fielder who provides value on both sides of the ball.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Minors (2 teams)	A,A+	.293	113	433	101	127	22	7	19	69	88	123	47	.415	.508

2 JOSUE DE PAULA OF

HIT: 60. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 50.

Born: May 24, 2005. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 225.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2022. **Signed by:** Laiky Uribe.

TRACK RECORD: After he was born in New York, De Paula moved with his family to the Dominican Republic during his teenage years. He signed with Los Angeles in 2022 and excelled in the Dominican Summer League in his pro debut, then skipped the Arizona Complex League in favor of a sophomore season split between both Class A levels. Despite a few minor injuries, he reached Double-A in 2025 as a 20-year-old.

SCOUTING REPORT: De Paula is one of the purest hitters in the system and produced a season in 2025 that only scratched the surface of his potential. Using a fairly passive approach overall, the lefthanded hitter did a solid job staying within the strike zone and doing damage on hittable pitches. Scouts were particularly enthused by his ability to adjust within at-bats. A perfect example came during the 2025 Futures Game, when De Paula swung through one slider from White Sox lefthander Noah Schultz only to send one into the seats a few pitches later. Even though De Paula hit just 12 home runs, scouts are confident that he will one day be a plus hitter with plus power. He made strides defensively and gave evaluators reason to believe he could be a fringe-average corner outfielder. He'll get to the balls hit his way, but is unlikely to make many highlight-reel plays. Improvement in the field was a big point of emphasis throughout the 2025 season, and he worked with outfield coordinator Daniel Nava to get himself on a track that would keep him on the grass. De Paula is a below-average runner but his impressive instincts on the basepaths helped him swipe 32 bases in 40 attempts.

THE FUTURE: De Paula will likely return to Double-A to begin 2026. With early, sustained success, he could make his big league debut late in the season and has a chance to settle in as a masher.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.250	102	360	65	90	16	1	12	44	82	91	32	.391	.400

3 MIKE SIROTA OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: June 16, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: Northeastern, 2024 (3rd round). **Signed by:** John Ceprini (Reds).

TRACK RECORD: Sirota entered his 2024 draft season at Northeastern as one of the best prospects in the class. A subpar year in which he batted under .300 for the first time tanked his stock and allowed the Reds to pounce on him in the third round. Less than a year later Cincinnati dealt him to Los Angeles—along with a draft pick that was eventually used on Arkansas outfielder Charles Davalan—for Gavin Lux. In his first test as a pro, Sirota was a revelation. He torched the competition at both Class A stops before a knee injury in early July ended his season.

SCOUTING REPORT: After joining the list of players to never play an official game for his original organization, Sirota spent 2025 looking like the player area scouts believed had the talent to go in the first round. Those who saw him for High-A Great Lakes reported a player with a diverse blend of skills. His plus bat speed, strong hands and knack for finding the barrel add up to 60-grade raw power. Sirota's overall approach was fairly passive, and he did an outstanding job at staying within the strike zone. When he did swing, he produced some of the best exit velocities in the system. Those figures included a 90th percentile EV of 107.1 mph, which was higher than any of the organization's top prospects outside of Zyhir Hope. Defensively, Sirota is a smooth, consistent center fielder who grades as potentially above-average at the position thanks to plus speed and an above-average arm that would play in either corner if he had to slide over in deference to a superior defender. Scouts also laud Sirota for his hard-nosed style of play and outstanding makeup.

THE FUTURE: Sirota should be ready for spring training. Once he's back in action, he'll get back on the path to a future as a center fielder with the skills to hit toward the top of a lineup.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A+,A	.333	59	216	48	72	16	3	13	54	48	59	5	.452	.616

4 ZHYIR HOPE OF

HIT: 40. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: January 19, 2005. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 195.
Drafted: HS—Stafford, VA, 2023 (11th round). **Signed by:** Billy Swoope (Cubs).

TRACK RECORD: Hope showed plenty of tools and upside as an amateur, and the Cubs bet their 11th-round pick in 2023—and a $400,000 bonus—that they could add the polish necessary to turn his tools into skills. Before they could apply a second coat, they shipped him and lefty Jackson Ferris to the Dodgers for Michael Busch. In his first two seasons with the Dodgers, Hope has shown flashes of loud tools mixed with some of the same holes indicated during his amateur days.

SCOUTING REPORT: Hope has power and speed in spades. Now, to help those skills show up more often, he'll have to improve his approach and make more contact. The lefthanded batter has plenty of bat speed and boatloads of raw juice, but an uppercut swing makes him exploitable. His overall (33.9%) and zone (26.8%) miss rates were below-average and led to prolonged boom-or-bust stretches at High-A Great Lakes. He makes up for some of his whiff tendencies with a sharp batting eye, but evaluators have pointed out his weaknesses against changeups from righthanders. He also struggles against lefthanders, against whom he hit just .215/.372/.322 in 2025. Hope's chances of cashing in on his value will hinge on whether he can stick in center field. To this point, the odds of that happening seem low. Scouts both inside and outside the organization believe he's likely to wind up as a left fielder, where there will be more pressure on the offensive aspects of his game. He has an average arm and above-average speed, though he needs to improve his first step and make his routes more efficient.

THE FUTURE: Hope ended his season in Double-A and will likely return there to begin 2026. If everything clicks, he could be a corner outfielder with the kind of power-speed profile teams covet. To reach those heights, he'll need to close a few of the holes in his swing.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.266	127	458	69	122	29	3	13	80	79	143	27	.376	.428

Josue
De Paula

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Mike Sirota
Best Power Hitter	Josue De Paula
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Josue De Paula
Fastest Baserunner	Kendall George
Best Athlete	Mike Sirota

PITCHING

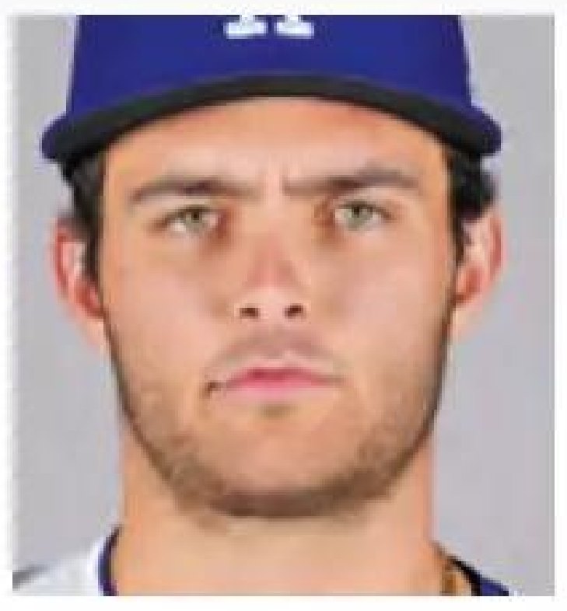
Best Fastball	Adam Serwinowski
Best Curveball	Peter Heubeck
Best Slider	Patrick Copen
Best Changeup	Ryan Brown
Best Control	Christian Zazueta

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Gio Cueto
Best Defensive Infielder	Noah Miller
Best Infield Arm	Emil Morales
Best Defensive Outfielder	Eduardo Quintero
Best Outfield Arm	Landyn Vidourek

5 JACKSON FERRIS LHP

FB: 60. **CB:** 60. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 40. **CT:** 50. **CTL:** 40. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.



Born: January 15, 2004. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 205.
Drafted: HS—Bradenton, FL, 2022 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Tom Clark (Cubs).

TRACK RECORD: Ferris split his high school career between North Carolina and IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla., from which he was drafted by the Cubs in the second round in 2022. He dazzled in his first full season as a pro, leading to his inclusion—with fellow prospect Zyhir Hope—in the deal in which the Dodgers traded Michael Busch to the Cubs. Ferris spent all of 2025 at Double-A Tulsa, where he produced mixed results. His stuff was among the best in the system, but his consistency, control and command often lacked and led to more walks than were ideal. He ranked third in the Texas League with 135 strikeouts.

SCOUTING REPORT: Scouts universally praise Ferris' pitch mix, which is led by two- and four-seam fastballs and a cutter, as well as a slider, a curveball and a changeup. The two-seamer was new in 2025, and Ferris moved to the popular kick-changeup grip to help the pitch gain more depth. His fastball and curveball each grade as potentially plus pitches, and the latter ranks as the best of its type in the system. He backs his signature offerings with a slider and cutter that range from average to slightly above-average, as well as a changeup that lags behind the rest of his mix. To get the most out of his stuff, he'll have to improve the quality and quantity of his strikes. Scouts noticed that Ferris got fatigued early and his stuff waned later in games, so he'll need to add strength to his frame. His longer arm stroke, which includes a hook and a wrap, limits his repeatability and sometimes leads to scattershot outings.

THE FUTURE: If Ferris can improve his stamina and strike-throwing, he has the type of stuff that profiles in the middle of big league rotations. If not, he could make for a useful late-game reliever. The 2026 season will provide further clues as to which path he'll take.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Tulsa (TL)	AA	10	7	3.86	26	24	126	118	9	66	135	0.6	11.8	24.2	1.46

6 CHARLES DAVALAN OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 40. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: December 16, 2003. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 5-9. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: Arkansas, 2025 (1st round supplemental). **Signed by:** Tim Adkins.

TRACK RECORD: Davalan started his career at Florida Gulf Coast, where he posted a .927 OPS with 10 home runs. He spent that summer with Cotuit of the Cape Cod League—where he was teammates with fellow 2025 Dodgers draftee Logan Lunceford—and then transferred to Arkansas for a season as a draft-eligible sophomore. Davalan quickly adjusted to the Southeastern Conference and posted a .994 OPS with 14 home runs while helping lead Arkansas to within a game of the College World Series finals. The Dodgers swooped up Davalan with the 41st pick in the draft, just minutes after they'd selected fellow Razorback Zach Root with the 40th selection. The Canadian-born Davalan signed for $1,997, 500, a shade under the slot value for the pick.

SCOUTING REPORT: Davalan built his reputation on being a pure hitter, and the Dodgers had him valued as one of the best in the class. The strong, compact, lefthanded hitter tweaked his setup heading into his lone year in Fayetteville, and the results were loud. High-quality contact came at an outstanding clip, cementing the Dodgers' confidence in his abilities. Davalan is likely a hit-over-power player at the highest level, which would profile nicely if he's able to stick in center field. He has a chance to do just that thanks to above-average speed, but he's unlikely to be more than fringe-average in center field. If he does move over, his below-average arm likely limits him to left field. Davalan played all three outfield positions in college and also got time at second base, which could be an option as a pro as well.

THE FUTURE: Davalan opened his pro career with eight regular season games with Low-A Rancho Cucamonga. He'll likely begin 2026 at High-A Great Lakes, where he'll work toward a ceiling as a table-setting center fielder.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	R. Cucamonga (CAL)	A	.500	8	34	7	17	3	1	1	10	3	5	3	.541	.735

7 ALEX FREELAND SS/3B

HIT: 45. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 24, 2001. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 200.
Drafted: Central Florida, 2022 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Wes Sargent.

TRACK RECORD: Freeland was born with a clubfoot that required surgery to fix, but it didn't stop him from thriving on the diamond. The Central Florida alum, whom the Dodgers chose with their third-round pick in 2022, enjoyed a breakout season in 2024 and made his big league debut in 2025. He got into 29 games and hit his first home run against five-time all-star Yu Darvish.

SCOUTING REPORT: Nothing about Freeland's game jumps off the page, but with a few adjustments he has the chops to settle in as a steady player whose versatility helps him carve out regular playing time. He did a solid job in the minor leagues of blending plate discipline with hard contact, but his miss rates jumped in the big leagues once he started seeing a steadier diet of non-fastballs. In both the minors and majors, the switch-hitting Freeland showed a clear platoon split—thanks in part to below-average bat speed from the right side—though he worked Triple-A lefties for a fair amount of walks. Freeland is steady and playable at shortstop but played mostly third base and second base in deference to Mookie Betts. Given the Dodgers' veteran roster, versatility will be Freeland's most likely avenue to regular playing time. His steady hands and average arm should be enough to ably handle third base, but his offensive game might be a little short of the position's typical profile.

THE FUTURE: Freeland got a taste of the big leagues in 2025. To stay there, he'll have to adjust to MLB pitching. Doing so might require more seasoning at Triple-A, but he will have chances to re-emerge in the big leagues in 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	23	Oklahoma City (PCL)	AAA	.263	106	415	77	109	30	0	16	82	83	111	18	.384	.451
2025	23	Los Angeles (NL)	MLB	.190	29	84	10	16	2	1	2	6	11	35	1	.292	.310

8 ZACH ROOT LHP

FB: 50. **CB:** 55. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: February 6, 2004. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 210.
Drafted: Arkansas, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Tim Adkins.

TRACK RECORD: With the 40th and 41st picks in the 2025 draft, the Dodgers went hog wild, selecting Root and outfielder Charles Davalan consecutively out of Arkansas. Root started his career with two seasons at East Carolina before transferring to Arkansas for his junior year. With the Razorbacks, Root went 9-6 and racked up 126 strikeouts in 99.1 innings while helping lead his team to within a game of the College World Series finals. The Dodgers signed Root for $2,197,500 and shut him down for the rest of the year.

SCOUTING REPORT: Root works with a full four-pitch complement and adds deception thanks to a funky delivery that contains a high leg lift and a three-quarters arm slot. His arsenal is fronted by a sinking fastball in the mid 90s and backed by a potentially above-average curveball and changeup as well as a slider that could be an average pitch. The latter breaking ball features 1-to-7 break and was used against both lefties and righties, and the Dodgers would like to see Root throw his changeup more as a professional than he did in college. The biggest questions about Root revolve around how many bats he'll miss as he moves up the minor league ladder. He was less a bat-misser than a barrel-misser in college, and the Dodgers will consider adding a four-seam fastball to his mix to help him get whiffs up in the zone. Despite all of its moving parts, Root maintains and repeats his delivery well, which gives evaluators confidence that he'll get to above-average control in the big leagues.

THE FUTURE: Root's college pedigree means he'll likely start his pro career at High-A Great Lakes. There, he'll work on shaping his arsenal into that of a big league starter. He has a chance to pitch at the back end of a rotation in a few years.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Did not play															

DOUBLE ISSUE: 2025 PREVIEW & TOP 100 PROSPECTS
Bas
America
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OF THE
YEAR

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Yoshinobu Yamamoto	31
No. 2 Starter	Blake Snell	37
No. 3 Starter	Shohei Ohtani	36
No. 4 Starter	**Roki Sasaki**	27
No. 5 Starter	Emmet Sheehan	29
Closer	Edgardo Henriquez	27

Catcher	Will Smith	35
First Base	Dalton Rushing	29
Second Base	Tommy Edman	34
Third Base	Alex Freeland	28
Shortstop	Mookie Betts	37
Left Field	Josue De Paula	25
Center Field	Eduardo Quintero	23
Right Field	Andy Pages	28
Designated Hitter	Shohei Ohtani	36

9 EMIL MORALES SS

HIT: 50. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: September 22, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 200.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024. **Signed by:** Dawlyn Lantigua/Paul Brazon.

TRACK RECORD: Morales was one of the best prospects available in the 2024 international class and signed with the Dodgers on Jan. 15. He starred in the Dominican Summer League, where he posted an OPS of 1.169. After a slow start stateside in the Arizona Complex League, Morales turned it on in the latter half of the 2025 season and finished with nine home runs. He stayed hot in the Low-A California League, swatting five home runs in 30 games with Rancho Cucamonga.

SCOUTING REPORT: No matter where Morales winds up on the diamond, the bulk of his value will be tied to his offense. He's got plenty of thunder in his bat, but an over-aggressive approach led to slightly below-average miss rates. Scouts noted a particular need to tighten his zone against spin and with two strikes. Once he improved in those areas, his fortunes turned and he began putting his raw strength to good use on pitches he could damage. He was one of just six players 18 or younger who clubbed 14 or more home runs in 2025. Scouts are near universal in their belief that Morales will not stick at shortstop. His above-average arm would play just fine at third base, but if he gets too big for the dirt, his arm would also fit well in right field. He has average speed for now, but even if he slows down a tick, he should be serviceable in the outfield. His offensive package would fit a corner profile. Scouts also raved about Morales' makeup and the strong leadership qualities he showed at such a young age.

THE FUTURE: Morales is likely to split his 2026 season between the Class A levels, with a chance at his Double-A debut late in the season if everything goes well. He has all the tools to mash, but his final defensive home remains a question.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.314	89	357	76	112	24	3	14	70	48	109	11	.396	.515

10 CHASE HARLAN 3B

HIT: 40. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: July 9, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 210.
Drafted: HS—Doylestown, PA, 2024 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Paul Murphy.

TRACK RECORD: The Dodgers chose Harlan with their third-round pick in 2024 and went more than two times over slot to sign him for $1,747,500. A nagging hip injury from his amateur days as a Pennsylvania prep led to surgery after the draft. Harlan made his pro debut in the Arizona Complex League in 2025 and reached full-season ball during the dog days of summer. Combined, Harlan swatted nine home runs, including three in 26 Low-A games.

SCOUTING REPORT: Scouts in the ACL gushed over Harlan's raw gifts, with some tabbing his raw power as a true 80 on the 20-80 scouting scale. His top-end exit velocity of 114.7 mph provides a key piece of the evidence behind that assertion. Now, the question will be whether he can refine his hit tool enough to regularly access that kind of thump. Harlan's miss rates were just OK, and scouts noticed particular weakness against premium velocity and spin. That was especially true toward the latter part of the season, which the Dodgers attributed to the longer workload, especially in his first full year back from surgery. After tweaks to his setup and mechanics, Harlan's swing is short and simple, with only a moderate hand load required to put charges into baseballs. Harlan mashed lefthanders in a small sample but was only fair against righties. Already 6-foot-3 and 205 pounds, Harlan's chances of sticking at third base will require him to maintain his quickness and athleticism as he matures. His plus arm strength would also fit in right field, where his power would also profile if he has to move in the coming years. Scouts also give him high marks for his work ethic.

THE FUTURE: Harlan will return to Low-A in 2026, when he'll work to improve against offspeed pitches and try to stay deft enough on his feet to remain on the dirt.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.269	68	260	43	70	16	1	9	58	36	67	3	.357	.442

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (DE PAULA), BRIAN WESTERHOLT/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (ROOT), RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES (SASAKI)

TOP 10

by JACOB RUDNER

1 THOMAS WHITE LHP

FB: 60. **SW:** 70. **CH:** 65. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 70. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 55.

Born: September 29, 2004. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 240.
Drafted: HS—Andover, MA, 2023 (1st round supplemental).
Signed by: Alex Smith.

TRACK RECORD: The top high school lefthander in the 2023 draft class, White signed with the Marlins for a well over-slot $4.1 million as the 35th overall pick. He wasted no time making an impact in his first full pro season, striking out nearly 30% of hitters with a 2.81 ERA across two Class A levels in 2024. He remained on his meteoric trajectory in 2025 with a 2.31 ERA and dominant 38.6% strikeout rate while advancing from High-A Beloit to Triple-A Jacksonville. Control remains White's lone blemish. His walk rate climbed from 9.2% in 2024 to 13.6% in 2025, and he has said he plans to overhaul his delivery ahead of his fourth professional season.

SCOUTING REPORT: White has begun to grow into his long-levered 6-foot-5, 240-pound frame. He's added roughly 10 pounds since 2024, with even more physicality likely to come. The added strength has only sharpened his already electric arsenal. Working from a compact arm stroke that stays hidden until the last instant, he fires from a high-three-quarters arm slot and unleashes a fastball that sits 94-96 mph, touches 99 and carries late life through the zone. The pitch rides up on hitters with both vertical carry and subtle armside run—a combination that produced a 34% miss rate and swing-and-miss utility against both righthanded and lefthanded bats. His best weapon is a sweeping low-to-mid-80s slider that tunnels perfectly off his heater. It misses bats at a premium clip—50% miss rate, 31% chase rate in 2025—and can both back-foot righties and dart away from lefties. His mid-80s changeup took a leap forward in 2025, showing fade and late tumble, and it was particularly effective against righthanders, who struggle to pick it up before it dives below the barrel. White ranked third among minor leaguers with at least 80 innings in strikeout rate in 2025, and all three of his pitches are legitimate putaway options. The question, as it often is with young power arms, is control. White is unlikely to ever be a precise, paint-the-black type. For now, his focus is simply filling the zone consistently. His walk rate climbed in 2025, a sign of either chasing whiffs off the plate or losing rhythm in his delivery. That inconsistency can lead to inefficiency, which was frequently evident, as he pitched into the sixth inning just twice in 2025. Yet, even when laboring, White competes and tends to tighten his execution when traffic builds.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Tyler Kolek, RHP	Did not play
2017	Braxton Garrett, LHP	Marlins
2018	Sandy Alcantara, RHP	Marlins
2019	Sixto Sanchez, RHP	Did not play
2020	Sixto Sanchez, RHP	Did not play
2021	Sixto Sanchez, RHP	Did not play
2022	Eury Perez, RHP	Marlins
2023	Eury Perez, RHP	Marlins
2024	Noble Meyer, RHP	Marlins
2025	Thomas White, LHP	Marlins

THE FUTURE: White's raw stuff is already among the most advanced in the minors and is only getting better, giving him all the ingredients of a frontline starter. If he can refine his delivery and strike-throwing, he has the makings of a potential ace. White reached Triple-A as a 20-year-old in 2025 and should reach the majors in 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	20	Minors (3 teams)	A+,AA,AAA	4	3	2.31	21	21	90	55	2	51	145	0.2	13.6	38.6	1.18

2 ROBBY SNELLING LHP

FB: 50. **CB:** 60. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 50.

Born: December 19, 2003. **B-T:** R-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 227.
Drafted: HS—Reno, NV, 2022 (1st round supp). **Signed by:** Tim Reynolds (Padres).

TRACK RECORD: A standout two-sport athlete in high school, Snelling chose baseball over football after signing with the Padres for $3 million—$1 million over slot—as a supplemental first-round pick. He dominated his first full season in 2023 with a 1.82 ERA, rising to Double-A and earning Minor League Pitcher of the Year honors. But a rocky 2024 followed. Snelling's command and sharpness faded en route to a 6.01 ERA in 16 starts before he was traded to the Marlins. He rebounded in 2025, ranking fourth in the minors with 166 strikeouts, fifth with a 2.51 ERA and excelling at Triple-A Jacksonville with a 1.27 ERA and 81 strikeouts to 17 walks over 63.2 innings.

SCOUTING REPORT: Snelling's 2024 struggles stemmed from erratic command, a passive approach and a velocity dip that left him sitting 91-93 mph and topping out at 95. His 2025 rebound began with regained power and subtle tweaks to his delivery, which is now more upright and repeatable and helped restore his reputation as an advanced strike-thrower. From a high three-quarters slot, he averaged 94.5 mph and touched 99 with a relatively flat approach angle to produce a 30% miss rate and 31% chase rate on fastballs—including 37% and 40%, respectively, at Triple-A. He also leaned more on a sharp, two-plane low-80s curveball now viewed as plus, reshaped his slider into a tighter gyro look and turned his firm, high-80s changeup into a reliable chase weapon against righthanded hitters. The improved mechanics yielded a career-best 7.1% walk rate alongside a 30.3% strikeout rate.

THE FUTURE: After quelling many of the doubts raised by his uneven 2024, Snelling now straddles the line between a No. 2 and No. 3 starter who could break camp with the Marlins in 2026. If he begins in Triple-A, his major league debut shouldn't be too far down the road.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	9	7	2.51	25	25	136	112	10	39	166	0.7	7.1	30.3	1.11

3 AIVA ARQUETTE SS

HIT: 50. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 50.

Born: October 17, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 220.
Drafted: Oregon State, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Scott Fairbanks.

TRACK RECORD: Arquette broke out in 2024 at Washington, where he hit .325/.384/.574 with 12 home runs. He then transferred to Oregon State in 2025, shifted from second base to shortstop and elevated his game further by slashing .354/.461/.654 with 19 home runs. The Marlins drafted him seventh overall and signed him for a slot value bonus of $7,149,900.

SCOUTING REPORT: At 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds, Arquette looks the part of a modern slugger. His free and easy righthanded swing generates above-average bat speed and plus raw power, allowing him to drive the ball to all fields while punishing mistakes to his pull side. Though swing-and-miss and chase tendencies have accompanied that pop, he refined his approach in 2025, showing improved plate discipline and producing a thunderous 93.5 mph average exit velocity with a 59% hard-hit rate. At times, he over-corrected—his 60% zone-swing rate reflected a bit of hesitation—but the overall approach was more measured and mature. Arquette moves well for his size, grading as an average runner once underway. He's never been a true basestealing threat, yet he matched his college high with seven steals in 27 games at High-A Beloit to align with the Marlins' emphasis on basepath aggression. Defensively, he's shown enough fluidity and arm strength to stick at shortstop, with above-average instincts, reliable hands and a plus, accurate arm from a lower slot. His physicality and offensive profile could ultimately fit at third base if a move becomes necessary.

THE FUTURE: Arquette's combination of body control and powerful frame made him one of few surething middle infielders in a 2025 draft class thin on them. He has the bat, arm strength and internal clock to remain at a premium position and should at least reach the upper minors in 2026.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Beloit (MWL)	A+	.242	27	99	11	24	5	0	1	10	17	27	7	.350	.323

4 JOE MACK C

HIT: 40. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 60. **ARM:** 65. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: December 27, 2002. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 210.
Drafted: HS—East Amherst, NY, 2021 (1st round supp). **Signed by:** Alex Smith.

TRACK RECORD: After an injury-shortened first full pro season in 2022 and a relatively poor 2023 campaign, Mack finally broke through in 2024, launching 24 home runs and lighting up the Midwest League on his way to Double-A Pensacola and Top 100 Prospects status. His ascent continued in 2025. It took just 13 strong games in Double-A to earn a promotion to Triple-A Jacksonville, where he hit .250/.320/.459 with 18 home runs, 18 doubles and a 90 mph average exit velocity over 99 games.

SCOUTING REPORT: Mack features a distinctive look in the box. The lefthanded batter stands tall with a high handset and compact load. Earlier in his career, he used a leg kick for timing and rhythm, but he pared it down in 2025. His quick bat and strong forearms help him generate above-average raw power that plays in games despite a modest hit tool. Mack's pitch recognition and discipline are roughly average—he swung and missed in the zone 25% of the time and chased 28%—but when he connects, the contact is loud, producing high-end exit velocities to his pull side. A below-average runner overall, he moves fluidly for his size and position with a smooth gait and better-than-expected agility. Behind the plate, he's an above-average receiver who presents pitches quietly and earns strikes on the edges, aided by near plus mobility and soft hands. His plus arm controls the run game. He threw out 32% of basestealers in 2025.

THE FUTURE: Mack's blend of defense, power and a refined approach makes him one of the top catching prospects in the upper minors. The Marlins are expected to add Mack to the 40-man roster this offseason to shield him from the Rule 5 draft. He will likely begin 2026 at Triple-A as the Marlins find playing time for him along with big league catchers Agustin Ramirez and Liam Hicks.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.257	112	408	70	105	22	2	21	58	45	127	9	.338	.475

Robby Snelling

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Cam Cannarella
Best Power Hitter	Kemp Alderman
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Fenwick Trimble
Fastest Baserunner	Dillon Head
Best Athlete	Ian Lewis

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Robby Snelling
Best Curveball	Josh White
Best Slider	Thomas White
Best Changeup	Thomas White
Best Control	Robby Snelling

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Joe Mack
Best Defensive Infielder	Starlyn Caba
Best Infield Arm	Maximo Acosta
Best Defensive Outfielder	Andrew Pintar
Best Outfield Arm	Esmil Valencia

5 KEVIN DEFRANK RHP

FB: 70. **SWP:** 55. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Extreme. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 11, 2008. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 235.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2025. **Signed by:** Sahir Fersobe.

TRACK RECORD: The Marlins were enamored of Defrank's blend of raw stuff and athleticism when they signed him out of the Dominican Republic in 2025. They signed him for $560,000, handing him the fourth-largest bonus given to a pitcher in that international signing class. He quickly validated the investment, posting a 3.19 ERA with 34 strikeouts to 10 walks over 31 innings in the Dominican Summer League. He was 16 years old for most of the season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Defrank stands out before even taking the mound. He boasts a listed 6-foot-5, 235-pound frame that's unusually thick and muscular for a teenager. The Marlins were first drawn to his exceptional arm speed and athleticism, traits that allowed him to reach the mid 90s at signing and sit in the upper 90s now while occasionally touching triple digits. His fastball features both run and ride. It's still a bit raw in shape but already overpowering for his age. He complements it with a plus changeup showing heavy sink and fade, along with a sweeping slider that many evaluators project as a future plus pitch. Defrank uses a high leg kick and a fluid three-quarters release that accentuates his arm speed. His physicality is an asset, but maintaining it will be crucial, because avoiding bad weight as he matures will be key to preserving his velocity and smooth delivery. Right now, he shows a standout combination of flexibility and power that allows him to get his body into ideal positions as he moves down the mound.

THE FUTURE: Having turned 17 in August, Defrank could return to the DSL in 2026, with a U.S. debut later in the year well within reach. If he can maintain his athleticism and continue refining his delivery, he has the ingredients of a future frontline starter—though he remains several developmental steps away from realizing that potential.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	16	DSL Marlins	Rk	0	1	3.19	10	10	31	30	1	10	34	0.3	7.1	24.1	1.29

DANNY PARKER/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (WHITE, SNELLING), MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (ARQUETTE)

6 KEMP ALDERMAN OF

HIT: 45. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 20, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 235.
Drafted: Mississippi, 2023 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Davis Knapp.

TRACK RECORD: Alderman was one of the most visible successes under the Marlins' revamped player development efforts, which emphasized simplified communication to help hitters focus on three key pillars: swing decisions, contact rate and quality of contact. After hitting eight home runs with a .242 average in 2024, Alderman broke out in 2025, slugging 22 homers with 22 steals and a .285/.338/.482 line across 110 games at Double-A Pensacola and 20 at Triple-A Jacksonville. The performance marked not just a surge in output, but proof of concept for Miami's developmental overhaul.

SCOUTING REPORT: Alderman is a stocky righthanded hitter with massive power—a defining trait that's endured even after trimming 20 pounds since being drafted. He's worked diligently to streamline his swing, quieting his mechanics and maintaining a tighter path than most hitters with his power profile. Despite that progress, chase tendencies remain. He swung at pitches out of the zone 30% of the time in 2025, showing improved restraint against high velocity but continued vulnerability to spin. Even so, Alderman's overall approach improved markedly, as he attacked strikes aggressively and limited mistakes. Whether his bat-to-ball skills hold up against major league pitching will be his key test. Defensively, Alderman projects as a corner outfielder with a plus arm that once produced mid-90s velocity off the mound in his amateur days. He's a solid runner underway, though he's still refining his timing on the bases.

THE FUTURE: Alderman's power surge in 2025 vaulted him into near-big league readiness and solidified his status as a bat-first corner outfielder with a power-over-hit profile. His defense has improved, but his impact will come at the plate. A strong spring could earn him a spot on the Opening Day roster.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.285	130	488	69	139	20	5	22	70	39	124	22	.338	.482

7 CAM CANNARELLA OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 30. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 70. **ARM:** 30. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: September 6, 2003. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 185.
Drafted: Clemson, 2025 (1st round supplemental). **Signed by:** Brett Bittiger.

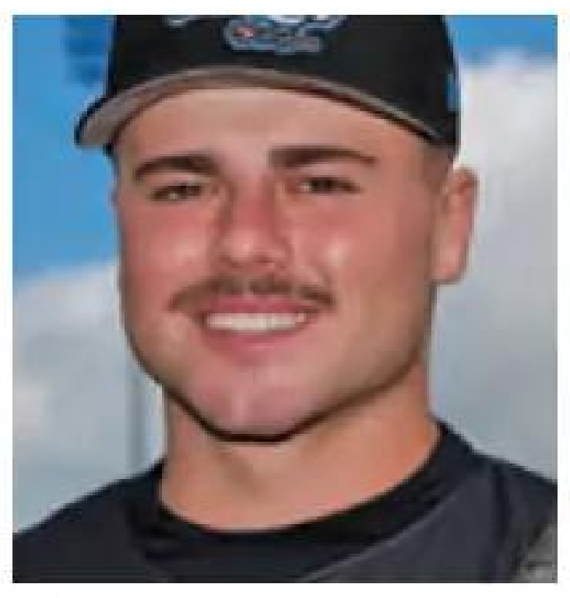
TRACK RECORD: Cannarella burst onto the scene as the 2023 ACC freshman of the year after hitting .388 with 24 stolen bases at Clemson. He followed with another standout campaign in 2024, increasing his home run total from seven to 11 despite playing through a shoulder injury that limited his running game and ability to throw. After having labrum surgery before the 2025 season, Cannarella returned to form as a junior. He cemented his offensive reputation as a career .360/.453/.551 hitter, and the Marlins drafted him 43rd overall and signed him for a slightly over-slot bonus of $2,277,425. He batted .284/.337/.375 with six doubles in 22 games during his pro debut with High-A Beloit.

SCOUTING REPORT: A wiry 6-foot center fielder, Cannarella stands out for his exceptional athleticism, defense and pure hitting ability. The lefthanded batter hits from an open stance with a somewhat busy hand load, but he consistently makes quality swing decisions and above-average contact to produce sharp line drives to all fields. Offensively, he's a clear hit-over-power player—he hit just three home runs as a junior and is unlikely to exceed double digits in pro ball—but his advanced barrel control and feel for the zone give him a realistic chance to remain a .300 hitter. Cannarella's calling card is his defense. His plus speed and outstanding instincts make him a natural in center field, where he routinely tracks down balls in the gaps and makes highlight-reel plays. His arm strength remains a concern. It was below-average even before his labrum injury and has since regressed further.

THE FUTURE: Cannarella's near-elite center field defense and above-average hit tool make him worth the gamble even if his arm strength never fully returns. He's expected to open 2026 back at High-A Beloit.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Beloit (MWL)	A+	.284	22	88	11	25	6	1	0	6	7	18	1	.337	.375

8 BRANDON COMPTON OF



HIT: 40. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: October 27, 2003. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 225.
Drafted: Arizona State, 2025 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Scott Stanley.

TRACK RECORD: Compton made an immediate splash as a freshman at Arizona State in 2024, hitting .355/.427/.661 with 14 home runs and 16 doubles to earn Pac-12 freshman of the year honors. He carried that momentum into a strong summer with Cotuit in the Cape Cod League and entered his 2025 draft-eligible season with high expectations. Though he regressed slightly, Compton still produced a solid .278/.383/.498 line with nine home runs and 19 doubles while upping his walk rate from 10.8% to 15.3%. The Marlins drafted him in the second round and signed him for $2 million, which was slightly under slot value. Compton hit .217/.354/.359 with two home runs, a 32.7% strikeout rate and 16.8% walk rate in his first taste of pro ball with High-A Beloit.

SCOUTING REPORT: Compton packs considerable strength and power into his barrel-chested 6-foot-1, 225-pound frame. He generates easy plus raw power with a short, compact lefthanded swing that produces 90th percentile exit velocities around 110 mph. While power is his calling card, his approach remains volatile. After a strong start to 2025, his discipline regressed, as he expanded the zone too often and swung through quality velocity. He hit just .139 against fastballs at 93 mph or higher. He'll need to refine his pitch recognition and contact skills, particularly against spin. Compton does show some on-base ability with a 13.2% career walk rate as an amateur, but there's pressure on his bat given his likely future in left field, where he profiles as an average runner and a fringy thrower and defender.

THE FUTURE: The Marlins bet on Compton's power when they selected him in the second round. For him to meet those expectations, continued refinement of his approach will be key. He's expected to begin that process back at High-A Beloit in 2026.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Beloit (MWL)	A+	.217	27	92	9	20	3	2	2	17	19	37	8	.354	.359

JOHN FISHER/GETTY IMAGES (PEREZ)

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	**Eury Perez**	26
No. 2 Starter	Thomas White	24
No. 3 Starter	Edward Cabrera	31
No. 4 Starter	Robby Snelling	25
No. 5 Starter	Ryan Weathers	29
Closer	Ronny Henriquez	29

Catcher	Joe Mack	26
First Base	Agustin Ramirez	27
Second Base	Xavier Edwards	29
Third Base	Aiva Arquette	25
Shortstop	Starlyn Caba	23
Left Field	Kyle Stowers	31
Center Field	Cam Cannarella	25
Right Field	Jakob Marsee	28
Designated Hitter	Kemp Alderman	26

9 KARSON MILBRANDT RHP

FB: 55. **CB:** 55. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 45. **CT:** 60. **CTL:** 40. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: April 21, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—Liberty, MO, 2022 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Ryan Cisterna.

TRACK RECORD: A two-sport star at Liberty High and Missouri's 2022 Gatorade player of the year, Milbrandt was drafted by the Marlins in the third round in 2022 and signed for an over-slot $1.5 million. After posting a 5.09 ERA with 94 strikeouts over 97.1 innings between Low-A Jupiter and High-A Beloit in 2023, he took a step forward with a 4.33 ERA and 91 strikeouts in 97.2 innings the following year. His 2025 campaign was his best yet: a 3.00 ERA with 113 strikeouts, 48 walks over 90 innings and a late-season promotion to Double-A Pensacola.

SCOUTING REPORT: At 6-foot-2 and 190 pounds, Milbrandt boasts an athletic frame, low-effort delivery and plus arm speed. Prior to the 2025 season, he added roughly 20 pounds of healthy weight to better harness his mechanics and address control issues that plagued his first two pro seasons. Working from a mid-three-quarters arm slot, he sits 94-96 mph with his fastball, touches 98 and is most effective when elevating it for swings and misses. He leaned more heavily on his slider in 2025—up to about 30% usage—and the mid-to-high-80s pitch produced a 33% miss rate and 43% chase rate with sharp two-plane break. He also mixes in a tight low-80s curveball with strong vertical depth that misses bats at a 46% clip and elicits chases 36% of the time, while also showing a high-80s cutter that evaluators believe could become a plus pitch after it generated a 40% whiff rate in 2025.

THE FUTURE: The Marlins get one more season to evaluate Milbrandt for the 40-man roster. That provides time to continue developing him deliberately while refining his mechanics and tightening his command. He has the pure stuff to project as a back-end starter, but improved strike-throwing will be essential to keep him from shifting to the bullpen.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (3 teams)	A,A+,AA	3	5	3.00	22	22	90	67	3	48	113	0.3	12.3	29.0	1.28

10 STARLYN CABA SS

HIT: 50. **POW:** 35. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 70. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: December 6, 2005. **B-T:** S-R. **HT:** 5-9. **WT:** 160.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2023. **Signed by:** Luis Garcia (Phillies).

TRACK RECORD: Caba signed with the Phillies for the top bonus in their 2023 international class and impressed in his debut, which was cut short by a left elbow injury. He returned in 2024 with no lingering effects, earning the No. 1 spot on the Florida Complex League prospects ranking before a late-season promotion to Low-A Clearwater, where he played 26 games. The Marlins acquired Caba from Philadelphia in a December 2024 trade for Jesus Luzardo. In 2025, he appeared in 51 games for Low-A Jupiter, hitting .222/.335/.278 with one home run. He missed two months after spraining his left thumb while sliding into second base.

SCOUTING REPORT: Caba hasn't yet replicated the offensive success of his 2024 stateside debut in the FCL. He has struggled to find consistent impact in Class A with two organizations. He hits from both sides of the plate with a flat, contact-oriented swing and lacks the strength to produce more than modest exit velocities. Though his batting line hasn't reflected it, Caba shows patience and rarely chases. Evaluators believe that even modest offensive improvement could carry him through the system because of his elite defense. A fluid, instinctive shortstop with an above-average arm, Caba's twitch and body control allow him to make rangy plays to either side look routine. A plus runner, he stole 50 bases in 79 games in 2024 but just 14 in 51 games in 2025. He capped his season in the Arizona Fall League.

THE FUTURE: Caba will be just 20 years old entering his fourth professional season. The athletic middle infielder will need to show real offensive progress to unlock his full potential. If his bat develops, he projects as a top-of-the-order catalyst with Gold Glove-caliber defense at a premium position. If it doesn't, his glove alone may not be enough to lift him beyond a replacement-level profile.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Jupiter (FSL)	A	.222	51	194	28	43	6	1	1	21	34	34	14	.335	.278

TOP 10 MILWAUKEE BREWERS

by BEN BADLER

1 JESUS MADE SS

HIT: 70. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 70. **Risk:** Average. **Adjusted:** 60.

Born: May 8, 2007. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 194.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024.
Signed by: Julio De La Cruz.

TRACK RECORD: The 2024 international signing class will have a major impact on the Brewers for years to come. The biggest bonus the Brewers paid that year went to Venezuelan shortstop Jorge Quintana, who signed for $1.7 million, then was traded to the Padres in 2025. Their next two highest bonuses went to a pair of Dominican shortstops, Jesus Made ($950,000) and Luis Peña ($800,000), both of whom have become two of the best teenage prospects in the game. Made in particular has the look of a future star. After debuting in the Dominican Summer League in 2024, Made became the organization's No. 1 prospect and the organization's co-minor league player of the year. In 2025, he skipped the Rookie-level Arizona Complex League and opened in Low-A Carolina. He earned an August promotion to High-A Wisconsin and was even better there before finishing the season in Double-A Biloxi as an 18-year-old, repeating as the Brewers' minor league player of the year.

SCOUTING REPORT: Made is a well-rounded offensive threat with a mix of polished hitting ability and power for his age. He has a compact, smooth and whippy swing with good balance, rhythm and timing from both sides of the plate. Made tracks and identifies pitches well, showing the ability to let pitches travel deep into the hitting zone and use the whole field. His hand-eye coordination and the adjustability in his swing enable him to square up both fastballs and offspeed stuff at a high clip. His swing decisions are advanced for his age, and he consistently puts together quality at-bats. Made can barrel elite velocity and has the bat speed to already flash plus raw power. His flatter swing path doesn't generate a ton of loft, but with the power he has now and strength projection to grow into more, there's potential for 25-plus home run juice in his prime. Made is athletic and a plus runner who stole 47 bases in 2025, so the upside is there for a 30-30 season. Made has the raw tools for shortstop, but the defensive component of his game will need the most work. He has the quick-twitch athleticism, plus arm and range to stick in the dirt. He's not as instinctual in the field as he is at the plate, but he could develop into a solid defensive shortstop if he can improve his reliability and internal clock. With Cooper Pratt a better fielder also in the organization, Made ultimately might end up at third base—where he could be an above-average defender—or possibly second base.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Orlando Arcia, SS	Rockies
2017	Lewis Brinson, OF	Did not play
2018	Lewis Brinson, OF	Did not play
2019	Keston Hiura, 2B	Rockies
2020	Brice Turang, SS	Brewers
2021	Brice Turang, SS	Brewers
2022	Aaron Ashby, LHP	Brewers
2023	Jackson Chourio, OF	Brewers
2024	Jackson Chourio, OF	Brewers
2025	Jesus Made, SS	Brewers

THE FUTURE: Made could follow in the footsteps of Jackson Chourio as a Brewers international signing who reaches the major leagues as a 20-year-old and develops into a franchise cornerstone. Wherever he ends up in the infield, Made could be a perennial all-star. He should start 2026 in Double-A Biloxi.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (3 teams)	A,A+,AA	.285	115	453	81	129	28	6	6	61	67	108	47	.379	.413

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES

2 LUIS **PEÑA** SS/2B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 70. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 45.

Born: November 13, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 185.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024. **Signed by:** Julio De La Cruz.

TRACK RECORD: The Brewers signed Peña for $800,000 in 2024, making him one of their three big international signings of the year along with fellow Dominican shortstop Jesus Made and Venezuelan shortstop Jorge Quintana. After a stellar pro debut that year in the Dominican Summer League, Peña skipped the Rookie-level Arizona Complex League and had an outstanding season with Low-A Carolina as an 18-year-old in 2025. He earned a promotion to High-A Wisconsin in August.

SCOUTING REPORT: Peña combines impressive athleticism and hand-eye coordination as an offensive-oriented infielder. He has an aggressive approach but with a balanced, controlled swing that stays behind the ball well with excellent barrel accuracy, leading to minimal swing-and-miss in his game. Peña showed significantly improved power in 2025, getting stronger and doing a better job of pulling the ball in the air. It's now average raw power with exit velocities up to 113 mph, though his swing path is geared more for line drives than loft. Peña showed a better approach in 2025, but he needs to continue to become a more selective hitter, with chase tendencies that got him into trouble once he got promoted to High-A. Peña is a good athlete and a plus-plus runner with a plus arm, but his defense is still shaky. Shortstop is a long shot, and while he could fit at second or third base, his hands, internal clock and defensive instincts will need to improve. His speed would be an asset if he were to move to the outfield.

THE FUTURE: Peña isn't quite as well-rounded or advanced in swing decisions compared to Jesus Made, but he is one of the most talented teenage prospects in the minor leagues. He's likely to return to Wisconsin to begin 2026 and could reach the big leagues before his 21st birthday.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	A,A+	.270	96	374	69	101	18	6	9	64	34	68	44	.335	.422

3 COOPER **PRATT** SS

HIT: 50. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: August 18, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 206.
Drafted: HS—Senatobia, MS, 2023 (6th round). **Signed by:** Scott Nichols.

TRACK RECORD: Pratt signed with the Brewers for $1.35 million on an above-slot deal as a sixth-round pick out of high school in 2023. He became one of the organization's top prospects in 2024, when he finished the year with 23 games in High-A Wisconsin, then drew an aggressive assignment in 2025 to spend all year in Double-A Biloxi as a 20-year-old. Pratt's .238/.343/.348 slash line wasn't particularly inspiring, though it was still an OPS above the Southern League average.

SCOUTING REPORT: Pratt's high baseball IQ is apparent in all facets of the game. His swing is simple, balanced and stays short to the ball for a 6-foot-3 hitter. Pratt will expand the strike zone a touch more often than he should, particularly against sliders down and away, but he has a good sense of timing with the hand-eye coordination that leads to a low swing-and-miss rate. Pratt's biggest offensive question is how much power he will develop. While he has the size to project more power to come, he doesn't have big bat speed and his top-end exit velocities are below-average, so he doesn't project to be a big home run threat. Pratt moves well for his size with plus speed underway. He doesn't have typical quick-twitch explosiveness that a lot of teams prefer at shortstop, but he compensates for it with his instincts and internal clock to project to stick at the position. While he doesn't have the range to make some of the more acrobatic, highlight-reel plays, his hands and feet work well, he has good body control and a quick release to a plus arm.

THE FUTURE: While fellow shortstop Jesus Made is a potential star in Milwaukee's farm system, Pratt's edge on defense gives him the inside track to become the Brewers' shortstop of the future. He should open 2026 in Triple-A and should make his major league debut either by the end of the year or in 2027.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Biloxi (SL)	AA	.238	120	437	71	104	22	1	8	62	67	80	31	.343	.348

4 LOGAN **HENDERSON** RHP

FB: 50. **CT:** 45. **SL:** 40. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 45.

Born: March 2, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 209.
Drafted: McLennan (TX) JC (4th round). **Signed by:** K.J. Hendrick.

TRACK RECORD: Henderson was the NJCAA Division I pitcher of the year as a freshman in 2021 when he won a national championship with McLennan (Texas) JC, then signed with the Brewers as a fourth-round pick. An avulsion fracture in his right elbow in spring training required surgery, wiping out nearly all of his 2022 season. He pitched well in 2023 and 2024 and kept it going in 2025, when he made his major league debut in April and pitched well between Milwaukee and Triple-A. His season ended after his Aug. 3 outing due to a flexor strain in his right elbow.

SCOUTING REPORT: Pitching from a compact, efficient delivery, Henderson has success by filling the strike zone and keeping hitters off-balance with his changeup. His fastball sits at 91-95 mph and tickles 96. That's slightly below-average velocity for a starter, but a low release height helps the pitch play up. He's a prolific strike-thrower with both his fastball and his plus changeup. It's an unusually high-spin changeup that averages 19 inches of fade and 10 mph off his fastball while maintaining his arm speed and repeating his release point to disguise the pitch well. Henderson leans heavily on those two pitches, with his changeup a major reason why he has similar results against lefties as righties. Henderson has found success at every level despite the lack of a great breaking ball. His low-to-mid 80s slider is a below-average pitch with short break, and he introduced a mid-to-upper 80s cutter to give hitters another wrinkle.

THE FUTURE: Henderson should immediately factor into Milwaukee's big league pitching staff and likely in their rotation in 2026. He's had multiple elbow injuries since signing, and there is some concern about his ability to log a typical starter's workload, but if he can do that, he has the stuff to stick in the rotation.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	23	Nashville (IL)	AAA	10	4	3.59	16	15	78	62	9	24	87	1.0	7.7	27.9	1.11
2025	23	Milwaukee (NL)	MLB	3	0	1.78	5	5	25	17	3	8	33	1.1	8.1	33.3	0.99

Cooper Pratt

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Jesus Made
Best Power Hitter	Eric Bitonti
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Tyler Black
Fastest Baserunner	Braylon Payne
Best Athlete	Braylon Payne

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Bishop Letson
Best Curveball	Josh Knoth
Best Slider	Bishop Letson
Best Changeup	Craig Yoho
Best Control	Manuel Rodriguez

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Jeferson Quero
Best Defensive Infielder	Cooper Pratt
Best Infield Arm	Brady Ebel
Best Defensive Outfielder	Luis Lara
Best Outfield Arm	Jose Anderson

5 BISHOP **LETSON** RHP

FB: 55. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 45. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: September 15, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 170.
Drafted: HS—Floyd Knobs, IN, 2023 (11th round). **Signed by:** Ginger Poulson.

TRACK RECORD: Lightly recruited at his Indiana high school before committing to Purdue, Letson saw his velocity tick up as the draft neared. That development, along with his physical projection, athleticism and upside drew the Brewers to sign him for $482,600 as an 11th-round pick in 2023. Letson had a promising debut in 2024, though his season ended due to elbow soreness. In 2025 he pitched well but was again limited to fewer than 50 innings after missing a little more than three months in the middle of the season due to right shoulder impingement.

SCOUTING REPORT: Letson has the most upside of any pitcher in the Brewers' farm system. He's a long-limbed righthander with a fast, whippy arm and is an excellent mover down the mound, generating 7.5 feet of extension that would rank among the highest in the majors. That extension and his lower release height help his stuff play up, starting with a four-seam fastball that sits at 92-95 mph and touches 98, and a lively two-seamer with above-average armside run. Letson still has more space left to fill out, so there could be another uptick in velocity coming. His low-80s slider flashes plus, spinning at 2,300-2,500 rpm with wide lateral break and two-plane depth at its best. Letson rarely throws his mid-80s changeup, and when he does, it's typically a below-average pitch that doesn't miss many bats. Letson is athletic and a good strike-thrower for his age, particularly for a long-levered, 6-foot-4 pitcher, though he's still learning to repeat his release point on his secondaries to match his fastball.

THE FUTURE: Durability continues to be a question for Letson, but he has the stuff and control to pitch in the middle of the rotation, with the upside for more if his velocity takes another jump. He should start 2026 with Double-A Biloxi.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	20	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	2	2	2.40	11	9	41	31	2	12	49	0.4	7.5	30.8	1.04

6 LUIS LARA OF

HIT: 50. **POW:** 30. **RUN:** 70. **FLD:** 70. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: November 17, 2004. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 5-8. **WT:** 167.
Signed: Venezuela, 2022). **Signed by:** Jose Rodriguez.

TRACK RECORD: Lara was a smaller, skinny player as an amateur in Venezuela, but he developed into an explosive athlete with skills that translated on both sides of the ball when the Brewers signed him for $1.1 million in 2022. As a 20-year-old with Double-A Biloxi in 2025, Lara led the Southern League in walks, ranked second in stolen bases and, despite hitting just .257/.369/.343, posted an OPS above the league average.

SCOUTING REPORT: Lara is just 5-foot-8, but he has a promising blend of quick-twitch athleticism and refined game skills, particularly in center field, where he has become an elite defender. His speed ticked up in 2025 to become a plus-plus runner, he gets great reads off the bat, accelerates quickly and takes crisp routes with excellent range, turning in highlight-reel catches. He has a plus arm and an efficient release, giving him the tools and instincts to potentially win a Gold Glove. That will only happen if Lara hits enough to be an everyday big leaguer. Lara has outstanding hand-eye coordination, producing one of the best contact rates in the organization. He uses his small strike zone to his advantage and doesn't chase often. What Lara lacks is power. He has never hit more than four home runs in a season, and there isn't much physical projection remaining. However, his exit velocities ticked up in 2025, even reaching 110 mph, so there's more present power he could unlock if he can add loft.

THE FUTURE: Lara's elite defense at a premium position and bat-to-ball skills give him a chance to be an average regular along the lines of Nationals center fielder Jacob Young or Cardinals center fielder Victor Scott II. There's risk he could end up more of a fourth outfielder, but there's also greater, sneaky upside if he's able to tap into more game power.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Biloxi (SL)	AA	.257	136	513	79	132	32	3	2	40	86	99	44	.369	.343

7 JEFERSON QUERO C

HIT: 50. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: October 8 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 205.
Signed: Venezuela, 2019. **Signed by:** Reinaldo Hidalgo.

TRACK RECORD: Quero signed out of Venezuela for $200,000 in 2019 and reached Double-A as a 20-year-old in 2023. Since then, injuries have slowed his progress and taken a toll on his tools. In his first game of 2024, Quero tore the labrum in his right shoulder diving back to first base, then had season-ending surgery. In 2025, a hamstring strain prevented him from rejoining Triple-A Nashville until June. Quero hit just .259/.333/.362 in 30 games in June and July, then batted .250/.339/.470 over 28 games in August and September.

SCOUTING REPORT: By the end of the season, Quero mostly looked like the same hitter he was before the shoulder injury. He sets up with an open stance, keeps his hands quiet and makes contact at a high clip. Quero is a good fastball hitter, but his aggressive approach gets him into trouble, so he will need to improve his plate discipline. He has average raw power that gives him a chance to be a 20-plus home run threat. A well below-average runner, Quero was once one of the best defensive catching prospects in the game, but the regression of his arm strength is a major concern. Prior to his injury, Quero had a plus-plus arm that stacked up among the best in the minors. In 2025, he showed significantly diminished power on his throws with fringe-average arm strength, recording pop times of 1.95 seconds on his best throws but typically above 2.0 seconds as he threw out just 17% of basestealers. He remains a skilled receiver, blocker and earns high marks for his intangibles behind the plate.

THE FUTURE: If Quero's arm strength improves to become above-average—if not the elite tool it once was—the upside is there for him to be an above-average regular. If it doesn't, his path to a starting role becomes clouded.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,AAA	.271	69	251	42	68	17	1	11	57	32	40	2	.361	.478

8 MARCO DINGES C

HIT: 45. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: September 5, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: Florida State, 2024 (4th round). **Signed by:** Ketchum Marsh.

TRACK RECORD: Dinges transferred from Tallahassee Community College to Florida State for the 2024 season. While almost exclusively serving as a DH for the Seminoles, Dinges hit .323/.415/.583 with 15 home runs that season and signed with the Brewers for $500,000 as a fourth-round pick. He was one of the bigger up-arrow prospects in the lower minors in 2025, hitting a combined .300/.416/.514 with 13 homers in 77 games between Low-A Carolina and High-A Wisconsin.

SCOUTING REPORT: Dinges has become one of the top power-hitting catchers in the minors. He has plus-plus raw power with big bat speed and an approach looking to do damage. Dinges takes a high-throttle swing with some length and effort to it, with the look of a hitter who should have holes, but so far through the lower levels, he has been a strong performer while keeping his strikeout rate in check at 19.2% in 2025. Dinges' stock will climb if he proves he can stick behind the plate. A below-average runner, Dinges is a solid athlete for a catcher and has a plus arm. He consistently gets pop times under 2.0 seconds on throws to second base and under 1.9 on his best throws. He didn't spend much time behind the plate in college, which is evident in his blocking, release and throwing accuracy. The progress Dinges made defensively in 2025 has him trending toward becoming a playable defender at catcher, but there's still risk he could end up in left field.

THE FUTURE: If everything clicks, Dinges could become a power-hitting catcher who hits 25-plus home runs. If he can't stick at catcher, the offensive upside is still there for a big league role in an outfield corner, though with less likelihood of being an everyday player.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A,A+	.300	77	257	42	77	12	2	13	62	49	61	5	.416	.514

Baseball America
NATIONAL LEAGUE TOP 10 PROSPECTS
150 SCOUTING REPORTS
BREW MASTER

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP
NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Jacob Misiorowski	27
No. 2 Starter	Quinn Priester	28
No. 3 Starter	Logan Henderson	27
No. 4 Starter	Bishop Letson	24
No. 5 Starter	Tyson Hardin	27
Closer	Abner Uribe	29

Catcher	Jeferson Quero	26
First Base	Andrew Fischer	25
Second Base	Brice Turang	29
Third Base	Jesus Made	22
Shortstop	Cooper Pratt	24
Left Field	**Jackson Chourio**	25
Center Field	Luis Lara	24
Right Field	Sal Frelick	29
Designated Hitter	Luis Peña	22

9 JOSH ADAMCZEWSKI 2B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 30. **ARM:** 40. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: May 10, 2005. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—St. John, IN, 2023 (15th round). **Signed by:** Ginger Poulson.

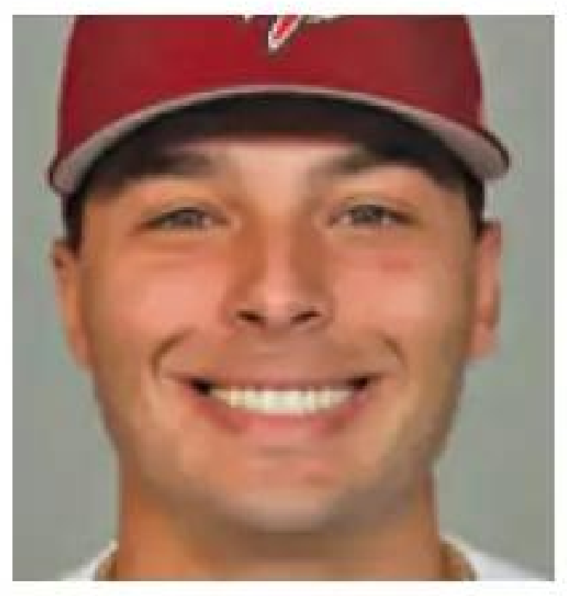
TRACK RECORD: Colleges weren't heavily recruiting Adamczewski when he committed to Ball State, but he never made it to campus after he signed with the Brewers for $252,500 as a 15th-round pick in 2023. He hit well in the Rookie-level Arizona Complex League in 2024, then emerged as one of the better hitting prospects in the organization in 2025, mostly with Low-A Carolina before a mid-August bump to High-A Wisconsin. A back injury limited him to 71 games.

SCOUTING REPORT: Adamczewski has a hitterish look in the batter's box. He has a calm, balanced swing and takes a tight turn of the barrel in a compact, adjustable lefthanded stroke. His bat gets on plane early and stays there a long time with great plate coverage and an all-fields approach. He tracks pitches well, has a good sense of the strike zone and average raw power. That hasn't translated to big home run totals yet, but he's capable of going deep to any part of the park when he gets off his best swing. There's a lot to like with Adamczewski at the plate, but his defense remains well below-average at second base. His hands, footwork and internal clock will need improvement to stick. A fringe-average runner with a below-average arm, Adamczewski should still primarily be a second baseman in 2026, but he got exposure to left field late in Wisconsin and in the Arizona Fall League.

THE FUTURE: An up-arrow prospect heading into 2026, Adamczewski will likely return to Wisconsin to open the year but should finish in the upper levels. Improving his defense to stick as an offensive-oriented second baseman would enhance his value, but his offensive upside is good enough to handle a role in left field if needed.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (3 teams)	Rk,A,A+	.320	71	253	55	81	18	5	5	46	43	53	7	.420	.490

10 ANDREW FISCHER 3B



HIT: 50. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: May 25, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 210.
Drafted: Tennessee, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Ketchum Marsh.

TRACK RECORD: Fischer played at Duke as a freshman, Ole Miss as a sophomore and then transferred to Tennessee in 2025. Hit showed power at every stop and had his best season with the Volunteers, hitting .341/.497/.760 with 25 home runs in 65 games before the Brewers drafted him the first round at No. 20 overall and signed him for $3.5 million. Fischer made his pro debut with High-A Wisconsin and he performed well, though he played through a wrist injury that hampered his exit velocities.

SCOUTING REPORT: Fischer's plus power is his calling card. Hitting from a crouched stance, Fischer has good bat speed in a steep swing geared to hit the ball in the air. He's a patient hitter who will draw his walks and has a knack for hitting the ball out front with loft to his pull side with a chance to be a 25-plus home run threat. He could end up a power-over-hit player with a swing path that looks like it could leave some holes, but some scouts think he's a more complete hitter than he gets credit for thanks to good plate coverage and zone control. A below-average runner, Fischer played exclusively first base at Tennessee, but in his pro debut the Brewers played him at third base, a position he had played earlier in his college career. The initial returns were encouraging. Fischer will need to get better coming in on balls, but he has the lateral agility, hands and above-average arm that give him a chance to be a serviceable defender at third base.

THE FUTURE: Fischer was one of the more complete offensive threats available in the 2025 draft. He could be up in Milwaukee by 2027, either at third base or first base, with the upside to hit in the middle of their lineup.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Wisconsin (MWL)	A+	.311	19	74	8	23	5	1	1	10	11	22	8	.402	.446

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (PRATT), RYAN MEYER/MLB PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES (CHOURIO)

TOP 10

By MATT EDDY

1 NOLAN McLEAN RHP

FB: 60. **CB:** 60. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 55. **SW:** 70. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 55.

Born: July 24, 2001. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 214.
Drafted: Oklahoma State, 2023 (3rd round).
Signed by: Scott Thomas.

TRACK RECORD: When the Mets drafted McLean in the third round in 2023, he was primarily a righthanded reliever and power-hitting outfielder for Oklahoma State. He continued as a two-way player in pro ball until the second half of 2024, when he dropped hitting after reaching Double-A Binghamton. Focusing his energy solely on pitching paid dividends in 2025, when McLean raced through Double-A with a 1.37 ERA in five starts, reached Triple-A Syracuse on May 9 and led all minor league pitchers with 38 strikeouts in July.

The Mets called McLean up for his MLB debut on Aug. 16, and he fired 5.1 scoreless innings with eight strikeouts against the Mariners. He threw four quality starts in eight tries while pitching to a 2.06 ERA with 57 strikeouts in 48 innings.

SCOUTING REPORT: The Mets knew McLean had an athletic, strong, 6-foot-2 frame and a promising fastball/slider foundation when they drafted him. They quickly learned about his adaptability and strong work ethic. All through his time in the minor leagues, McLean worked to refine his pitch shapes and expand his repertoire to find the right mix to combat batters of both hands. Ultimately, he reached that point in the second half of 2025, as typified by his Aug. 27 start against the Phillies when he pitched eight scoreless innings and generated at least one whiff on six different pitch types. McLean's main weapons are a plus mid-90s two-seam fastball that averages 16 inches of armside run and a double-plus mid-80s sweeper that breaks 16 or more inches to his glove side. This vicious east-west attack delivered from a low three-quarters slot sets up the rest of his arsenal, which against righthanded batters consists mostly of plus low-80s curveballs and above-average mid-90s four-seam fastballs to change eye levels. Against lefthanded batters, McLean emphasizes his breaking pitches along with his low-90s cutter to work inside and his mid-80s changeup to attack armside. He has shown a growing willingness to front-door his two-seamer to lefty hitters and also to back-foot them with his slider. What makes McLean difficult to handle is his quality stuff and unpredictability. He throws each of his six pitch types—ranging from 77 mph curveballs to 98 mph fastballs—to any batter in any count. His control is average and likely to improve with experience, as his delivery is simple and repeatable.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Steven Matz, LHP	Red Sox
2017	Amed Rosario, SS	Yankees
2018	Andres Gimenez, SS	Blue Jays
2019	Andres Gimenez, SS	Blue Jays
2020	Ronny Mauricio, SS	Mets
2021	Francisco Alvarez, C	Mets
2022	Francisco Alvarez, C	Mets
2023	Francisco Alvarez, C	Mets
2024	Jett Williams, SS/OF	Mets
2025	Jett Williams, SS	Mets

THE FUTURE: In the words of one scout, McLean's high-spin breaking stuff and low-spin changeup are "how you draw it up." He showed in his eight-start MLB debut that he is major league ready. He was the Mets' best pitcher down the stretch and is ready to assume a prominent role in the rotation. He has the ingredients to become a prototype No. 2 starter. McLean retains his rookie status for 2026 and will likely add Prospect Promotion Incentive eligibility, giving the Mets a chance to add a draft pick after the first round if he factors for a major award in his first three seasons.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	23	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	8	5	2.45	21	18	114	78	8	50	127	0.6	10.7	27.2	1.13
2025	23	New York (NL)	MLB	5	1	2.06	8	8	48	34	4	16	57	0.8	8.5	30.3	1.04

2 CARSON BENGE OF

HIT: 60. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 65. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 50.

Born: January 20, 2003. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 185.
Drafted: Oklahoma State, 2024 (1st round). **Signed by:** Trey Cobb.

TRACK RECORD: Benge played outfield and pitched for two seasons at Oklahoma State, where he was roommates with fellow two-way player and future Mets teammate Nolan McLean. The Mets drafted Benge with the 19th overall pick in 2024. He dropped pitching as a pro and established himself as a Top 100 Prospect in 2025 when he hit .281/.385/.472 with 15 home runs and 22 stolen bases in 116 games across three levels. He reached Triple-A Syracuse in mid August. His 150 wRC+ ranked 19th in the minors among batters with 400 plate appearances.

SCOUTING REPORT: Benge has quality tools across the board, but his top attribute is his ability to drive the ball with authority to the opposite field. High-A Brooklyn hitting coach Bryan Muniz describes it as his "superpower." While most of Benge's batted balls go to left field, he is beginning to hunt pitches he can drive for power, and he hit a vast majority of his 15 homers to right field in 2025. He is a versatile and fairly discerning hitter with a high zone-contact rate against all pitch types. He should hit for average, walk and produce above-average power. Benge hangs in versus lefthanders but has not shown the same level of impact in same-side matchups. He posts average run times to first base but is a bit faster underway. Most rival clubs see Benge as a solid-average defender in center field and above-average in a corner. His plus arm plays in right field. The Mets laud his leadership skills.

THE FUTURE: Benge is an athletic, hard-working, do-everything type of hitter and a future quality regular. The question is whether he will mash enough for a corner or defend well enough for center to become an occasional all-star. He finished 2025 at Triple-A and, given his age, production and progression, could play his way into the Mets' big league plans early in 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (3 teams)	A+,AA,AAA	.281	116	441	87	124	25	7	15	73	68	92	22	.385	.472

3 JONAH TONG RHP

FB: 65. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 40. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: June 19, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 180.
Drafted: HS—Statesboro, GA, 2022 (7th round). **Signed by:** Marlin McPhail.

TRACK RECORD: Tong burst on the prospect scene in 2024 when he struck out 160 batters in 113 innings. He followed with an epic 2025 season, mostly at Double-A Binghamton, in which he led all minor league pitchers with 179 strikeouts, a 1.43 ERA and a .148 opponent average. He was recognized as the BA Minor League Pitcher of the Year. The Mets called up Tong on Aug. 29.

SCOUTING REPORT: Tong's game revolves around his fastball and the mechanics he uses to achieve its unique characteristics. His delivery was inspired by former Giants ace Tim Lincecum—a fellow smaller-statured, hard-throwing righthanded starter. Tong loads his arm in a similar fashion, with a deep arm plunge as he puts his weight on his back leg. Firing forward, Tong points his lead foot toward the first-base dugout and tilts his torso dramatically to achieve his high overhand arm slot. He gets incredible extension and true backspin on a four-seamer that yields more than 19 inches of vertical ride—one of the highest totals among minor league starters. Tong upped his velocity from 92 mph in 2024 to 94 in 2025 and developed a Vulcan grip for his changeup. The mid-80s pitch produced devastating results against minor league batters but did not have the same success in MLB. He throws occasional high-spin curveballs and sliders that have at least average potential. Tong's effortful mechanics inhibit his command on all pitches, and he has run higher walks rates throughout his career.

THE FUTURE: Tong was 22 when called up following just two Triple-A starts, and his inexperience showed at times. He throws fastballs or changeups about 85% of the time and will need better command of those pitches or better breaking stuff to become a No. 3 starter. He will get another MLB look in 2026.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	10	5	1.43	22	22	114	58	2	47	179	0.2	10.6	40.5	0.92
2025	22	New York (NL)	MLB	2	3	7.71	5	5	19	24	3	9	22	1.4	10.3	25.3	1.77

4 JETT WILLIAMS SS/2B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 65. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: November 3, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-8. **WT:** 175.
Drafted: HS—Heath, TX, 2022 (1st round). **Signed by:** Gary Brown.

TRACK RECORD: Williams drew notice on the amateur circuit as a shorter-stature player with a high energy level and quality tools. The Mets drafted him 14th overall in 2022 and watched him reach Double-A at the tail end of a breakthrough 2023 season. Wrist surgery limited him to 33 games in 2024, but Williams rebounded in 2025 with a strong season spent mostly at Double-A, plus 34 games at Triple-A. Williams tied for the Mets' minor league lead with 226 total bases and finished ninth in the minor leagues with 58 extra-base hits.

SCOUTING REPORT: Williams does a little of everything well, highlighted by his plus speed and versatility to play shortstop, second base and center field. He stays within his strike zone, consistently draws walks, gets on base and steals bases. He's best when he leans into things he does best—hitting line drives, taking extra bases and occasionally hunting a pitch to drive over the wall with fringe-average power. His swing gets too big at times and costs him with empty fly outs. Dialing in his bat-to-ball skills could also improve his overall contact rate on in-zone pitches, which is ordinary. Williams sees most of his action at shortstop and has improved there since turning pro with a quicker first step and enhanced range. He's average at the position and also fluid. His above-average arm plays in the middle infield and surprisingly well in the outfield, where his competitive throws averaged 91.4 mph. He is a capable outfielder with decent routes and jumps and average range.

THE FUTURE: Williams showed off his best self in 96 Double-A games, hitting .281/.390/.477 with 62 walks, 44 extra-base hits and 32 steals in 39 tries. He has a chance to become a table-setting regular, most likely in the middle infield.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.261	130	486	91	127	34	7	17	52	76	131	34	.363	.465

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	AJ Ewing
Best Power Hitter	Ryan Clifford
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Elian Peña
Fastest Baserunner	Jett Williams
Best Athlete	Nick Morabito

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Jonah Tong
Best Curveball	Nolan McLean
Best Slider	Brandon Sproat
Best Changeup	Jack Wenninger
Best Control	Irving Cota

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Chris Suero
Best Defensive Infielder	Marco Vargas
Best Infield Arm	Jett Williams
Best Defensive Outfielder	Nick Morabito
Best Outfield Arm	Yohairo Cuevas

5 BRANDON SPROAT RHP

FB: 50. **CB:** 55. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 45.

Born: September 17, 2000. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 215.
Drafted: Florida, 2023 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Brett Campbell.

TRACK RECORD: The Mets drafted Sproat in the third round in 2022 but did not sign him. They picked him again in the second round in 2023 as a Florida senior and signed him for slot value. Sproat breezed through High-A and Double-A in 2024 before hitting a wall at Triple-A Syracuse. He continued to flounder at the level in 2025, and through his first 22 starts for Syracuse, spanning two seasons, Sproat ran up a 6.45 ERA with a 15.7% strikeout rate. He righted the ship in late June 2025, and in 11 appearances afterward he had a 2.44 ERA and 30% strikeout rate. The Mets called up Sproat on Sept. 7, and he made four MLB starts of varying quality.

SCOUTING REPORT: Coming out of college, Sproat was regarded as an athletic righthander with arm speed who emphasized his fastball and changeup. Shaky control introduced reliever risk. As a pro, he's morphed into a pitcher whose control is good enough to start and whose breaking stuff stands out. Sproat threw his mid-80s sweeper and high-70s curveball about a third of the time in his MLB debut and leaned on them as putaway pitches. He also throws a harder slider. Sproat's sinker sits 94-96 mph, but despite that velocity, it operates as a groundball or set-up pitch rather than a whiff pitch. The same goes for his average four-seamer. Lefthanded batters saw Sproat better and were largely responsible for his ballooning Triple-A ERA. He mitigated the effect by throwing more four-seam fastballs, curves and changeups to lefties. His power changeup remains a plus pitch at 89-91 mph with lots of armside life.

THE FUTURE: Sproat throws hard, throws strikes and has a wide repertoire, including strong feel for spin and offspeed. He has all the ingredients to be a No. 4 starter, and he's ready now to assume that role.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	24	Syracuse (IL)	AAA	8	6	4.24	26	25	121	97	9	53	113	0.7	10.4	22.1	1.24
2025	24	New York (NL)	MLB	0	2	4.79	4	4	21	18	0	7	17	0.0	8.3	20.2	1.21

ROB TRINGALI/MLB PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES (MCLEAN), NICK CAMMETT/DIAMOND IMAGES VIA GETTY IMAGES (EWING)

6 AJ **EWING** OF/2B

HIT: 60. **POW:** 40. **RUN:** 65. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: August 10, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 160.
Drafted: HS—Springboro, OH, 2023 (4th round supp). **Signed by:** Joe Raccuia.

TRACK RECORD: The Mets drafted Ewing near the end of the fourth round in 2023, using the compensatory pick they gained from Jacob deGrom signing with the Rangers. Ewing quickly hit his way out of the Florida Complex League in 2024 and started back at Low-A St. Lucie in 2025. He advanced to High-A Brooklyn at the end of April and moved to Double-A Binghamton in mid August. He batted .315/.400/.429 in 124 games, ranking fifth in the minors with 70 stolen bases, sixth with 10 triples and eighth with 153 hits.

SCOUTING REPORT: Ewing has a well-rounded game centered on strong swing decisions, line-drive contact to all fields and plus speed. He tweaked his swing in 2025 to improve his batted-ball angles and make more contact. Ewing's line-drive rate climbed by more than 10 percentage points, while his swing-ing-strike rate fell from 12% to about 9% as he moved up the ladder. His instincts and decision-making stand out, as evidenced by a system-best .401 on-base percentage and 70-for-81 showing on the bases. Ewing hits the ball hard enough to run into a few home runs, but his spray approach limits his power to below-average. A high school shortstop, Ewing has primarily played center field in pro ball with occasional starts at second base. He's improved his jumps and max speed in the outfield and should be an above-average option in center and a plus one on the corners with an above-average arm.

THE FUTURE: Ewing does a lot of things that can help a team win, beginning with the potential for plus hitting ability and plus speed. Additionally, he bats lefthanded, gets on base and plays up the middle. The versatility to play outfield and infield only helps his cause. Ewing finished 2025 at Double-A and should reach Triple-A in 2026, putting him on the MLB radar as a 21-year-old.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (3 teams)	A+,AA,A	.315	124	485	87	153	26	10	3	55	68	105	70	.401	.429

7 RYAN **CLIFFORD** 1B/OF

HIT: 40. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: July 20, 2003. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 200.
Drafted: HS—Cary, NC, 2022 (11th round). **Signed by:** Andrew Johnson (Astros).

TRACK RECORD: The Mets acquired Clifford when they dealt Justin Verlander to the Astros at the 2023 trade deadline. He has blossomed into their top power prospect, hitting 19 home runs in 2024—mostly at Double-A—and a career-high 29 homers in 2025 to lead the system and rank sixth in the minors. He also paced Mets minor leaguers with 93 RBIs and 85 walks while tying for the lead with 226 total bases. Clifford spent most of 2025 at Double-A before moving to Triple-A on Aug. 12.

SCOUTING REPORT: Not many minor league batters hit the ball as hard as Clifford, whose 108.6 mph 90th percentile exit velocity was one of the top figures in the minor leagues. He gets the most out of his double-plus raw power by hitting the ball in the air to his pull side. The biggest improvement the lefthanded-hitting Clifford made in 2025 was improving against high fastballs and dramatically improving his overall zone-contact rate. He also upped his aggressiveness to swing at more pitches and put more early-count offerings in play. The strategy reduced his strikeout rate by four percentage points without sacrificing power. He takes his walks, but his flyball profile will translate to low batting averages. Despite his size, Clifford is an average runner who is capable on the outfielder corners. His plus arm plays in right field. He is also a quality defender at first base.

THE FUTURE: The Mets laud Clifford as a hard worker dedicated to improving his craft in the batting cage. His bat will determine how far he advances in MLB. He has the power-and-patience approach that could play if he can clear the high offensive bar at first base. Clifford could hit his way into a big league look in 2026 after returning to Triple-A to open the season.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.237	139	481	71	114	23	1	29	93	85	148	7	.356	.470

8 JACOB **REIMER** 3B

HIT: 50. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: February 2, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 205.
Drafted: HS—Yucaipa, CA, 2022 (4th round). **Signed by:** Glenn Walker.

TRACK RECORD: The Mets liked Reimer in high school more than most teams and went over slot to sign him in the fourth round of the 2022 draft. The decision looks good after Reimer hit 17 home runs with a 157 wRC+ in 2025 that ranked fourth among all minor league batters with at least 400 plate appearances. He announced a breakout season with a three-homer game for High-A Brooklyn on April 30. Promoted to Double-A in late June, Reimer struggled with strikeouts initially before finishing with a .627 slugging percentage in his final 30 games.

SCOUTING REPORT: Player development is seldom linear, and Reimer is a perfect example. In his first full pro season in 2023, he got on base at a high clip but showed limited power. Then he missed all but 25 games in 2024 with a hamstring injury. Heading into 2025, Reimer made key adjustments to improve his bat speed and range of motion to put himself in better position to stay behind the ball and rotate through the hitting zone. The result was one of the best 90th percentile exit velocities in the system and a swing optimized to pull the ball in the air. Reimer has a good zone-contact rate for a young hitter with plus power, and he does a good job swinging at strikes, so he should maintain an average hit tool. He is an average runner who will slow down but has good baserunning instincts. Reimer has the above-average arm to play third base, but he needs to tighten up his ball security and throwing accuracy after making 16 errors in 2025.

THE FUTURE: Reimer started 15 games at first base in 2025 and might see more time there. Such a move would up the pressure on his bat, but he has shown the ability to adapt to challenges in the batter's box. Reimer will be ready for Triple-A early in 2026 and could enter the MLB picture late in the season.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.282	122	444	88	125	32	5	17	77	58	112	15	.379	.491

Baseball America
TOP 10 PROSPECTS
EAST DIVISIONS
FRANCISCO ALVAREZ WILL POWER THE METS' NEXT CORE
APPLE JUICE
PLUS
Mets
4

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Nolan McLean	27
No. 2 Starter	Jonah Tong	26
No. 3 Starter	Brandon Sproat	28
No. 4 Starter	Jack Wenninger	27
No. 5 Starter	Jonathan Santucci	26
Closer	Christian Scott	30

Catcher	**Francisco Alvarez**	27
First Base	Ryan Clifford	25
Second Base	Jett Williams	25
Third Base	Brett Baty	29
Shortstop	Francisco Lindor	35
Left Field	Carson Benge	26
Center Field	AJ Ewing	24
Right Field	Juan Soto	30
Designated Hitter	Brandon Nimmo	36

9 JACK **WENNINGER** RHP

FB: 55. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 55. **SP:** 70. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: March 14, 2002. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 210.
Drafted: Illinois, 2023 (6th round). **Signed by:** Chris Heidt.

TRACK RECORD: The Mets chose Wenninger out of Illinois in the sixth round of the same 2023 draft class that yielded Nolan McLean and Brandon Sproat. Coming out of school, Wenninger was a tall strike-thrower with a nasty splitter—a combination he used to dominate Class A hitters in 2024 with 140 strikeouts in 115 innings. He proved it was no fluke with a breakthrough 2025 at Double-A that included a 2.92 ERA and 147 strikeouts in a system-best 135.2 innings. Wenninger pitched the clinching win for Binghamton in both rounds of the Eastern League playoffs, striking out 20 in 11 innings and allowing two runs on four hits.

SCOUTING REPORT: Wenninger is a strong athlete and, in player development parlance, a great worker. In 2025, he proved he was much more than that by holding higher velocity, expanding his repertoire and leaning into his double-plus splitter. Wenninger improved his average four-seam fastball velocity to 94.5 mph and topped out near 98. The pitch gets above-average ride from his high arm slot. He incorporated a mid-90s sinker to help him work armside to righthanded hitters. Wenninger merged his slider and cutter into a tight mid-80s slider he threw dramatically more often. His mid-80s splitter remains his bread-and-butter pitch. He can throw it in the zone for whiffs or in the dirt for chases to batters on either side of the plate. Late in the season, he began incorporating a spike-grip curveball in the low 80s for a different look. Wenninger throws strikes with all his pitches and has strong mound presence.

THE FUTURE: Wenninger has all the ingredients to be a No. 4 starter. He could be more than that if his splitter plays as successfully in the majors as it does against minor league hitters. He is ready for Triple-A and a likely MLB debut in the second half of the season.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	23	Binghamton (EL)	AA	12	6	2.92	26	26	136	114	13	42	147	0.9	7.6	26.4	1.15

10 JONATHAN **SANTUCCI** LHP

FB: 60. **CB:** 50. **SL:** 65. **CH:** 40. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: December 28, 2002. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 195.
Drafted: Duke, 2024 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Daniel Coles.

TRACK RECORD: Like fellow top Mets prospects Nolan McLean and Carson Benge, Santucci has a background as a two-way player. He played both ways as a Duke freshman before committing to the mound and becoming the Mets' second-round pick in 2024. Santucci got off to a rough start at High-A Brooklyn in 2025—8.14 ERA, seven home runs in six starts—before righting the ship and cruising to Double-A Binghamton in July. He pitched to a 1.95 ERA and .186 opponent average with two home runs allowed in his final 20 starts, striking out 30% of batters. He pitched effectively in the Eastern League playoffs.

SCOUTING REPORT: Santucci throws his slider more than his four-seam fastball—an approach that works because he commands his powerful, deceptive slider. It averages 87 mph and maxes out near 93 with a lot of vertical drop. He can locate the pitch for strikes or bury it late in the count. It looks like a fastball out of the hand before falling off the table. Santucci's fastballs averages 94 mph and tops out at 97 with enough ride and extension in his delivery to help the pitch play up. He began incorporating a low-80s curveball to give him a change-of-pace pitch. His changeup is in the development stage, and he doesn't throw it often. He walked 14% of batters as a college junior, but he improved his control dramatically by focusing on throwing to the middle of the plate and letting the action on his pitches take over.

THE FUTURE: Santucci stands out in a Mets system that has largely been devoid of lefthanders for the past decade outside of David Peterson and Steven Matz. Santucci's platoon-neutral slider, quality velocity and improved strike-throwing give him a real shot to become a No. 3 or 4 big league starter, just like Peterson and Matz. He will be ready for Triple-A in short order.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	9	4	3.06	25	23	118	95	9	41	138	0.7	8.5	28.7	1.16

DUSTIN SATLOFF/GETTY IMAGES (ALVAREZ)

TOP 10 Phillies

by JOSH NORRIS

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES

1 AIDAN MILLER SS

HIT: 55. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 60. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 55.

Born: June 9, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 205.
Drafted: HS—Dunedin, FL, 2023 (1st round).
Signed by: Bo Way.

TRACK RECORD: Miller's amateur history is long and decorated. He was a part of three of USA Baseball's National Teams, and he hit .423 as a member of the 18U squad. That track record of success led the Phillies to call Miller's name in the first round of the 2023 draft despite a broken left wrist that sidelined him for the bulk of his senior season at Florida's New Port Richey High. So far, the risk has been well worth the reward. Miller has improved in every area and now stands not only as the Phillies' top prospect but also a premier overall talent. He advanced to Triple-A in his second full season as a professional and was slated for further development in the Arizona Fall League before being pulled before Opening Day.

SCOUTING REPORT: Out of the draft, few believed in Miller's ability to play shortstop. Now, it's hard to find scouts who think he doesn't have the chops to man the position for years in the big leagues. Miller's actions have become more explosive, his footwork has steadied and his arm stroke has improved, leading to more consistent, accurate throws with plenty of zip for shortstop or third base. Now, scouts believe he can handle every type of play a shortstop would be required to make, including slow rollers, grounders deep in the hole and flies to the shallow part of the grass. About the only thing standing in his way is the presence of Phillies megastar Trea Turner. No matter where he winds up, Miller has the offensive chops to profile. He began his 2025 season back at Double-A and struggled early. Evaluators inside and outside the system attributed his slow start to an inordinately high amount of breaking balls thrown his way. Once he adjusted his approach and started letting it rip on fastballs he could handle, his fortunes began to turn. After an excellent May, Miller hit a summer swoon before producing a sweltering August and September that saw him hit .356/.491/.607 with six home runs across 36 games in Double-A and Triple-A. In time, Miller has a chance to be a well-rounded hitter who hits for average, gets on base and produces power in near-equal measure. That prognosis is a departure from his amateur scouting report that predicted power over hitting ability. The improvement stems from an ability to cover the entirety of the plate, handle multiple pitch types and a knack for knowing when to unleash his best swings. Miller is an average runner whose value on the basepaths is boosted by outstanding instincts that allowed him to rack up 59 stolen bases in 2025.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	J.P. Crawford, SS	Mariners
2017	J.P. Crawford, SS	Mariners
2018	J.P. Crawford, SS	Mariners
2019	Alec Bohm, 3B	Phillies
2020	Spencer Howard, RHP	Rakuten (NPB)
2021	Spencer Howard, RHP	Rakuten (NPB)
2022	Mick Abel, RHP	Twins
2023	Andrew Painter, RHP	Phillies
2024	Andrew Painter, RHP	Phillies
2025	Andrew Painter, RHP	Phillies

THE FUTURE: Miller was slated to get reps at third base in the AFL, and he will likely get experience there during spring training and the regular season in order to clear a path to the big leagues. Once ready, he has the skills to provide the Phillies with value on both sides of the ball.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.264	116	432	82	114	27	2	14	42	82	123	59	.392	.433

2 ANDREW PAINTER RHP

FB: 60. **CB:** 55. **SL:** 60. **SW:** 55. **CH:** 50. **CTL:** 60. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 50.

Born: April 10, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-7. **WT:** 215.
Drafted: HS—Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2021 (1st round). **Signed by:** Victor Gomez.

TRACK RECORD: Drafted in the first round in 2021, Painter's 2022 season was one for the record books. He became one of just a handful of high school pitchers to reach Double-A in their first full professional seasons. His elbow started barking during the spring of 2023, and the resulting Tommy John surgery kept him out of action until the 2024 Arizona Fall League. Painter spent his 2025 season at Triple-A Lehigh Valley, where he showed flashes of his upside but also plenty of areas that required further polish.

SCOUTING REPORT: The biggest area of concern during Painter's 2025 season was about the downgrade in fastball quality. The pitch retained its premium velocity but began showing more cut than carry and became more hittable as result. The Phillies attribute some of that backslide to Painter's arm slot dropping as the season wore on. If he can raise his arm slot, the team believes the pitch will return to its previous form. Painter also made several alterations to his arsenal, including the additions of a two-seamer and a sweeper and a move to a split-changeup grip. The sweeper was introduced as another way to combat lefties, and the new changeup worked better with his delivery and produced much more movement. Beyond addressing the downturn in fastball quality, Painter's next step is to turn his control into command and learn which of his pitches play best in different sections of the strike zone and how to properly sequence his mix.

THE FUTURE: Despite Painter's middling year, scouts are still quite bullish and see a future as at least a midrotation starter. How his fastball looks next season and beyond will go a long way toward determining whether those evaluations come true.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A,AAA	5	8	5.26	26	26	118	129	20	47	123	1.5	9.0	23.7	1.49

3 JUSTIN CRAWFORD OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 40. **RUN:** 70. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 50.

Born: January 13, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 175.
Drafted: HS—Las Vegas, 2022 (1st round). **Signed by:** Zach Friedman.

TRACK RECORD: The son of four-time all-star outfielder Carl Crawford, Justin has been one of the most productive hitters for average in the minor leagues since the Phillies drafted him 17th overall out of high school in 2022. Crawford spent all of 2025 at Triple-A Lehigh Valley and hit .334 to rank third in the full-season minor leagues. He owns a career .332 average as a pro.

SCOUTING REPORT: There's little doubt about Crawford's ability to make hard contact. Now, the question is whether he'll ever get the ball in the air often enough to turn it into impact. His groundball rate over the last two seasons is 60.2%, fourth-worst in the minors among players with 500 or more at-bats. He's made minor improvements year over year in that department, but he still lets the ball travel too far into the strike zone to put balls over infielders' heads and into gaps, where his double-plus speed would open the door for extra bases. If Crawford's power never materializes, it's imperative that he sticks in center field. Whether he can is the subject of debate. Scouts see a player whose elite speed can help him make up for late jumps and rough routes, while analysts rate him as one of the worst defensive center fielders in the minor leagues. Part of the reason for the disparity is because the Phillies have had Crawford play a more shallow center field in order to amplify his excellent ability to come in on shallow flies. The strategy downgrades his chances of reaching deeper drives, thus dinging his ratings. His game-breaking speed and average arm would make Crawford a plus defender in left field, but a long-term move would require him to unlock more power to fit the offensive profile.

THE FUTURE: Crawford will have an opportunity to make the Phillies' Opening Day roster, but his ultimate value will key on whether he can turn his raw strength into higher-quality contact.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Lehigh Valley (IL)	AAA	.334	112	440	88	147	23	4	7	47	58	91	46	.411	.452

4 AROON ESCOBAR 2B

HIT: 55. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: January 1, 2005. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 221.
Signed: Venezuela, 2022. **Signed by:** Rafael Alvarez/William Mota.

TRACK RECORD: After a middling first two professional seasons in the Dominican Summer League, Escobar took off in his first stateside season in 2024, batting .338 with a .495 on-base percentage in a Florida Complex League season shortened by shin splints in both legs. He spent most of 2025 with Low-A Clearwater before advancing to High-A in July and finally to Double-A for five games. Escobar finished with 15 home runs and an 18.2% strikeout rate in 120 games.

SCOUTING REPORT: Escobar's game is predicated on plenty of contact with sprinkles of power as well. He pairs a zone-miss rate of just 16% with a 90th percentile exit velocity of 104.7 mph. To get the most out of his strength and bat-to-ball skills, Escobar will have to learn to turn on pitches and pull them with authority, which is a weak point of his game at the moment. Toward the later part of the season, scouts noticed that pitchers were having success pounding him inside with fastballs as well as a little bit more willingness to chase than he'd shown at either Class A stop. It's crucial that Escobar gets to every ounce of his offensive potential, because his defensive value is likely to be fringe-average at best. His body is already softer than one would like, and he'll have to stay on top of his conditioning in order to stick at second base. His footwork gets lazy at times, which leads to a lack of range on grounders and waning accuracy on his throws. Both of those areas need to be sewn up if Escobar is to remain up the middle.

THE FUTURE: Escobar will likely return to Double-A Reading to begin 2026. If he can stay on top of his conditioning and do a better job protecting the inside part of the plate against premium velocity, he has a chance to be an offensive-minded second baseman.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (3 teams)	A,A+,AA	.270	120	460	82	124	13	4	15	62	56	98	24	.361	.413

Andrew Painter

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Justin Crawford
Best Power Hitter	Gabriel Rincones
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Aidan Miller
Fastest Baserunner	Justin Crawford
Best Athlete	Matthew Fisher

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Andrew Painter
Best Curveball	Gage Wood
Best Slider	Gabe Craig
Best Changeup	Ramon Marquez
Best Control	Sean Youngerman

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Kehden Hettiger
Best Defensive Infielder	Bryan Rincon
Best Infield Arm	Bryan Rincon
Best Defensive Outfielder	Dylan Campbell
Best Outfield Arm	Griffin Burkholder

5 GAGE WOOD RHP

FB: 70. **CB:** 50. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 45. **CTL:** 50 **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: December 15, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 205.
Drafted: Arkansas, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Tommy Field.

TRACK RECORD: The University of Arkansas ruled the back half of the first round of the 2025 draft. Four Razorbacks were taken in a 16-pick stretch, beginning with Wood the Phillies at pick No. 26. Wood spent three seasons in Fayetteville that culminated with a 19-strikeout no-hitter against Murray State in the College World Series. A little less than a month later, Wood heard his name called in the draft, and he signed for $3 million. He made his pro debut toward the end of the season with Low-A Clearwater, including an outing in the Florida State League playoffs.

SCOUTING REPORT: There's zero doubt that Wood has the stuff to dominate hitters. The question is: Will he do so as a starter or as a reliever? The righthander's 2025 season was interrupted by a shoulder injury that cost him two months, and his heaviest career workload is 59.1 innings, which came in 2024 and includes a stint in the Cape Cod League. One factor pointing toward a future in a rotation is a full, four-pitch repertoire headed by a dynamite fastball/curveball combination that he leaned on heavily with Arkansas. Beyond its velocity, Wood's fastball earns raves for its analytical properties and the resulting miss rate of 32% in college. The Phillies would like Wood to use his slider—which they believe has at least average potential—and his changeup as he integrates himself into pro ball. The changeup, held with a split-finger grip, was seldom used in college and is a clear fourth pitch at this point. Another part of Wood's professional education will involve learning how to moderate his between-start workload.

THE FUTURE: Wood's college pedigree should allow him to move quickly through the system, and he should reach High-A Jersey Shore early in 2026 and could make it to the upper levels quickly. He'll get plenty of chances to start, but he has a fallback option as a shutdown reliever as well.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Clearwater (FSL)	A	0	1	4.50	1	1	2	1	0	2	5	0.0	22.2	55.6	1.50

6 DANTE **NORI** OF

HIT: 50. **POW:** 30. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 60. **ARM:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: October 7, 2004. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—Northville, MI, 2024 (1st round). **Signed by:** Derrick Ross.

TRACK RECORD: Nori was one of the older high school players available in the 2024 draft, but the Phillies still felt strongly enough about his profile to select him 27th overall and pay him $2,497,500 to turn pro out of his Michigan high school rather than matriculate to Mississippi State. In his first full season as a pro, Nori raced from Low-A Clearwater to Double-A Reading and ranked among the top five in the organization in hits (127), walks (75) and stolen bases (52).

SCOUTING REPORT: Nori's game is based on contact and speed, and he showed both skills in spades in 2025. His zone-miss rate was just 13.1%, good enough to place him among the best in the system. His at-bats are professional, he knows the strike zone and he has just enough raw thump to occasionally put a charge into a ball. To get to more power, he'll need to add more of a load to his swing and put his lower half to better use, though his body is compact and likely maxed out, so he won't be able to rely on further projection for a power boost. He also could stand to improve his direction to the ball, which scouts say sometimes includes a leak to his pull side. Nori is a solid center fielder who could get to plus by ironing out some of the routes he takes to fly balls, though his plus speed might help him make up for some of the messier paths. His fringe-average arm fits just fine up the middle but would limit him to left field if he had to move off the position.

THE FUTURE: Nori will return to Double-A Reading, where his experience in colder weather will help him survive the early months in the Eastern League. He has a chance to be a table-setter who gets on base and holds down center field, but he'll need plenty of work to reach that ceiling.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (3 teams)	A,A+,AA	.261	125	487	72	127	18	12	4	47	75	85	52	.361	.372

7 GABRIEL **RINCONES** OF

HIT: 40. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 35.

Born: March 3, 2001. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 225.
Drafted: Florida Atlantic, 2022 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Victor Gomez.

TRACK RECORD: Rincones was drafted out of Florida Atlantic in 2022 and has spent most of his pro career showing flashes of his tools in between stints on the injured list. He dealt with a shoulder injury in 2022 and then had surgery on his left thumb in 2024. He made up for lost time in the Arizona Fall League, where he walked more than he struck out and was named to the league's annual Fall Stars Game. The son of a former Mariners minor league pitcher, Rincones was healthy at Triple-A Lehigh Valley for the entire 2025 season and set career highs for games played (119) and home runs (18).

SCOUTING REPORT: Rincones is one of the best ball-strikers in the organization, and his average, 90th percentile and maximum exit velocities all rank among the best in the system. He does a good job of staying within the strike zone, and his chase rate is above-average as well. Both traits showed up in his 80 walks, which were second in the system behind only top prospect Aidan Miller. Rincones' biggest weakness is lefthanded pitchers, who held him to a slash line of just .107/.215/.107 without an extra-base hit over 65 plate appearances in 2025. By contrast, those numbers against righthanders were .261/.392/.480 with all of his 18 home runs. All but one of his 78 games in the field came in right field, where his improved conditioning helped him play fringe-average defense. He has above-average arm strength and threw out five runners on the bases in 2025. Rincones' well below-average speed is masked by excellent instincts on the bases that allowed him to swipe 21 bases in 26 tries with Lehigh Valley.

THE FUTURE: Rincones' looks like a strong-side platoon player on a contender or a regular on a non-contender. The 2025 season was his best yet, and he could be in line to make his MLB debut in 2026.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	24	Lehigh Valley (IL)	AAA	.240	119	412	81	99	22	1	18	73	80	114	21	.370	.430

8 MATTHEW **FISHER** RHP

FB: 55. **CB:** 50. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 45. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: March 14, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 200.
Drafted: HS—Evansville, IN, 2025 (7th round). **Signed by:** Derrick Ross.

TRACK RECORD: Fisher was a two-sport athlete in high school who won Gatorade player of the year for the state of Indiana after racking up 42 touchdowns in his senior season at Evansville High, the same school as former big leaguer Don Mattingly, whose son Preston is the Phillies' general manager. Drafted in the seventh round in 2025, Fisher was signed away from a commitment to Indiana with a $1.25 million bonus, the second largest in the Phillies' draft class and the highest seventh-round figure in draft history.

SCOUTING REPORT: Fisher's combination of stuff and athleticism made him an extremely attractive prospect. He starts his four-pitch mix with a low-90s fastball with plenty of cut-ride action from a lower release height. The pitch topped out at 95 mph in his final season of high school. His best offspeed pitch is a potentially plus slider, and he backs it with a slower curveball and a potentially fringe-average changeup. He shows a strong feel for spin throughout his arsenal. Like Dante Nori in 2024, Fisher was 19 when he was drafted and was one of the older prep players on the board. The righthander has an ideal pitcher's frame at 6-foot-3, 200 pounds, though there's still room for strength gains and he showed signs of fatigue down the stretch in high school. Fisher does a good job repeating his delivery and projects for average control, especially if he gets stronger and can maintain his best stuff throughout the course of the longer seasons he's set to encounter in the minor leagues.

THE FUTURE: Fisher did not debut in 2025 and instead headed to fall instructional camp. His combination of stuff, analytical markers and athleticism could add up to a high ceiling, and the Phillies bet big on those variables coalescing into a pitcher who will be well worth the wait over the next few years.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	19	Did not play															

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP
NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Cristopher Sanchez	32
No. 2 Starter	Andrew Painter	26
No. 3 Starter	Jesus Luzardo	31
No. 4 Starter	Aaron Nola	36
No. 5 Starter	Gage Wood	25
Closer	Jhoan Duran	31

Catcher	Kehden Hettiger	25
First Base	Bryce Harper	36
Second Base	Aroon Escobar	24
Third Base	Aidan Miller	25
Shortstop	Trea Turner	36
Left Field	Justin Crawford	25
Center Field	Dante Nori	24
Right Field	Gabriel Rincones	28
Designated Hitter	**Alec Bohm**	32

9 MOISES **CHACE** RHP

FB: 60. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 50. **SW:** 55. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: June 9, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 210.
Signed: Venezuela, 2019. **Signed by:** Koby Perez (Orioles).

TRACK RECORD: Chace signed with the Orioles in 2019 but didn't debut until 2021 after the pandemic wiped out the 2020 minor league season. After three nondescript seasons with Baltimore, Chace broke out in 2024 and was included in a trade to the Phillies that sent Gregory Soto to the Orioles. Chace looked poised to raise his profile even higher in 2025—and perhaps finish the year in the big leagues—but he reported to spring training out of shape and with diminished stuff. He eventually required Tommy John surgery, which he had in June.

SCOUTING REPORT: At his best, Chace worked with a mid-90s fastball that peaked at 98 mph and had the analytical characteristics to miss plenty of bats. The pitch's diminished velocity was the first sign of trouble in 2025. He complemented his fastball with a short, hard slider and a sweeper, as well as a changeup. The slider featured sharp break and was effective against hitters from both sides of the plate, while the sweeper was one of his go-to offerings to get hitters to swing and miss. The changeup was Chace's least-refined offspeed pitch, but scouts believed it had a chance to get to average with further development. He was also set this season to work on honing his command and doing a better job of getting ahead of hitters to set up his best strikeout pitches. He made six starts at Double-A Reading before landing on the injured list, and his control still showed the need for sizable improvement. He walked 12 hitters in 16.2 innings.

THE FUTURE: Chace's injury has dimmed his ceiling and delayed his timeline to the big leagues. He should return at some point this summer and could jump on the reliever track once he returns. Before a decision is made, he and the team will have to see if his stuff returns intact.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Reading (EL)	AA	0	0	3.24	6	6	17	15	3	12	19	1.6	16.0	25.3	1.62

10 CADE **OBERMUELLER** LHP

FB: 50. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 50. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: July 28, 2003. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 170.
Drafted: Iowa, 2025 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Nate Field.

TRACK RECORD: The Rangers drafted Obermueller in the 19th round in 2024, but he chose to return to Iowa for another chance to improve his draft stock. He responded by cutting his walk rate nearly in half while raising his strikeout rate a few ticks as well. The Phillies pounced on him in the second round in 2025 and signed him for $1,197,500. After tossing a career-high 83.1 innings, Obermueller was shut down after signing.

SCOUTING REPORT: The Phillies liked what they'd seen from Obermueller in 2024, when he was teammates with righthander Marcus Morgan, whom the Phillies drafted in the ninth round that summer. They became even more interested in Obermueller when he started throwing strikes at a much higher clip thanks to a much more controlled delivery than he had shown in years past. Couple those gains with a delivery that features a low release height, excellent extension and a low-90s sinker that clipped 97 mph in his draft year, and the upside was enough to make them pull the trigger in the second round. Obermueller backs his fastball with a sweeper that featured 20 inches of break. He also has a firm, seldom-used changeup that scouts believe could be average if he throws it more often. The Phillies also might work with Obermueller to add a shorter breaking ball to his mix to give him another offspeed pitch he can throw in the zone to set up his sweeper to finish hitters.

THE FUTURE: Obermueller's smaller frame and currently limited pitch mix might lead him down a reliever's path. For now, the Phillies will bet that the gains he showed in his draft year will be sticky enough to give him a chance to stick as a back-end starter in a few years. If not, his sinker and slider should be an effective combination in the late innings.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Did not play															

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (PAINTER), BRIAN WESTERHOLT / FOUR SEAM IMAGES (FISHER), MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (OBERMUELLER), EDWARD M. PIO RODA/GETTY IMAGES (BOHM)

TOP 10

by MARK CHIARELLI

1 KONNOR GRIFFIN SS/OF

HIT: 60. **POW:** 70. **RUN:** 70. **FLD:** 60. **ARM:** 70. **BA Grade:** 75. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 65.

Born: April 24, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 225.
Drafted: HS—Flowood, MS, 2024 (1st round).
Signed by: Darren Mazeroski.

TRACK RECORD: Griffin was the most decorated high school player in the 2024 draft, winning High School Player of the Year after a senior spring in Mississippi in which he hit .559 and stole 85 bases. The Pirates drafted him ninth overall that July and signed him for $6,532,025, but even they couldn't have anticipated how quickly he'd emerge as the No. 1 overall prospect and the 2025 Minor League Player of the Year. The 19-year-old hit .333/.415/.527 with 21 homers and 65 steals across 122 games, beginning the year with Low-A Bradenton and finishing in Double-A Altoona. Griffin became the first-ever drafted teenager to hit at least 20 homers and steal at least 40 bases, joining only Andruw Jones, Ronald Acuña Jr., Jackson Chourio and Alex Escobar.

SCOUTING REPORT: At 6-foot-4, 225 pounds, Griffin's size and speed combination is reminiscent of an NFL strong safety, and he uses his exceptional physical tools to impact every facet of the game. He produces some of the highest exit velocities of any teenager in the sport and does damage to all fields. He's also a plus-plus runner once underway. For all his athleticism, Griffin entered pro ball facing significant concern about whether his swing and feel for contact would hold up against more advanced pitchers. He took a decisive first step in answering those questions in 2025. Griffin retooled his swing over the offseason to clean up his arm bar and add more depth, and he kept his strikeout rate under 22% and contact rate above 75% despite scaling three levels in his first pro season. He also handled premium velocity well. Griffin still has areas to refine—especially against spin—and he's still learning to pull the ball in the air consistently, but there's far more confidence now that he has a shot to develop into at least an above-average hitter. Evaluators are also more bullish that Griffin can stay at shortstop, where his range, instincts and plus-plus arm graded out favorably in 2025 while making just seven errors all season. Griffin cleaned up his footwork as the season progressed and plays with a calm internal clock. He spent the bulk of his defensive time at shortstop, though he also played 15 games in center field. Unsurprisingly given his skills, Griffin's capable of covering large swaths of ground in the outfield, and he's one of the rare players who could conceivably develop into a plus defender at two premium positions. Coaches and evaluators alike also rave about his aptitude and leadership qualities.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Tyler Glasnow, RHP	Dodgers
2017	Austin Meadows, OF	Did not play
2018	Mitch Keller, RHP	Pirates
2019	Mitch Keller, RHP	Pirates
2020	Mitch Keller, RHP	Pirates
2021	Ke'Bryan Hayes, 3B	Reds
2022	Oneil Cruz, SS	Pirates
2023	Endy Rodriguez, C	Pirates
2024	Paul Skenes, RHP	Pirates
2025	Bubba Chandler, RHP	Pirates

THE FUTURE: Griffin's ascension in 2025 is a franchise-altering development for an organization that has struggled to produce quality big league hitters since Andrew McCutchen and needs to find a running mate to pair with Paul Skenes. Even if Griffin's pure hitting ability gets tested, his power, speed and defense give him multiple paths to provide star-level value while having the upside of an MVP-caliber shortstop. A big league debut in 2026 isn't out of the question for Griffin, who doesn't turn 20 until late April.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Minors (3 teams)	A,A+,AA	.333	122	484	117	161	23	4	21	94	50	122	65	.415	.527

2 BUBBA **CHANDLER** RHP

FB: 70. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 55.

Born: September 14, 2002. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 218.
Drafted: HS—Bogart, GA, 2021 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Cam Murphy.

TRACK RECORD: Chandler entered 2025 on the cusp of the majors after positioning himself as one of baseball's most coveted pitching prospects. He dominated Triple-A early, pitching to a 2.03 ERA and a 35% strikeout rate through May. The Pirates kept Chandler in Indianapolis, however, and he fell into a two-month slump posting a 5.96 ERA amid fluctuating command. Chandler managed to steer out of the skid and on Aug. 16 he reached the big leagues, where he threw far more strikes, with 31 strikeouts to four walks in 31.1 innings.

SCOUTING REPORT: Chandler's plan of attack is built around overpowering hitters with one of baseball's most impressive fastballs. He was up to 102 mph in 2025 and averaged 98.9 once he reached the big leagues. Chandler has no issue holding velocity and throws his fastball with above-average extension and impressive carry at the top of the zone. Everything else layers in around it. His plus low-90s changeup was his best swing-and-miss weapon, while his upper-80s-to-low-90s slider grades solid-average and succeeds because of its pure power. He also mixes in a fringy mid-80s curveball that works as a change of pace with about 14 mph separation off his fastball. Chandler's athleticism allows him to maintain velocity deep into outings, but he remains an imprecise strike-thrower. His struggles in 2025 largely stemmed from lapses in fastball command and difficulty landing his offspeed pitches for strikes, which left him vulnerable when hitters sat on velocity.

THE FUTURE: If Chandler sharpens his command, especially with his secondaries, and keeps hitters from keying on his fastball, he could be a No. 2 starter who settles in behind Paul Skenes in the rotation.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Indianapolis (IL)	AAA	5	6	4.05	24	24	100	95	8	53	121	0.7	12.0	27.4	1.48
2025	22	Pittsburgh (NL)	MLB	4	1	4.02	7	4	31	25	2	4	31	0.6	3.2	25.0	0.93

3 EDWARD **FLORENTINO** OF

HIT: 60. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 50.

Born: November 11, 2006. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 190.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024. **Signed by:** Esteban Alvarez.

TRACK RECORD: If not for Konnor Griffin, Florentino's breakout would've been the biggest win for Pirates player development in 2025. Just a year after signing out of the Dominican Republic for $395,000 and making his pro debut, the 18-year-old emerged as one of the sport's most intriguing teenagers. He blitzed Rookie-level pitching over 29 games in the Florida Complex League, then carried that momentum to Low-A Bradenton. At the two stops he combined to slash .290/.400/.548 with 16 homers and 35 steals across 83 games.

SCOUTING REPORT: Evaluators marveled at Florentino's rare blend of plus raw power, discipline and advanced feel for contact at such a young age. His lefthanded swing has natural loft and impressive bat speed. While some external evaluators wondered if Florentino's swing path may one day leave him vulnerable at the top of the zone, he was quite difficult to beat in the strike zone in 2025, making contact nearly 90% of the time. He rarely chases, and once he lured pitchers into the zone he displayed a penchant for damage. The scary part? The Pirates believe Florentino has plenty of room to pack on more strength to his gangly 6-foot-4 frame. How Florentino's body develops will dictate where he ends up defensively. He's a fringy runner who may slow further as he fills out, but his instincts allow him to steal bases efficiently and take surprisingly sharp routes—especially closing on balls—in center field, where he played most of 2025. Long term, a corner spot may suit him best. The Pirates also raved about his aptitude and knack for making quick adjustments—traits that reminded some of Griffin.

THE FUTURE: Even if he shifts off center field, Florentino's offensive foundation gives him the upside of a middle-of-the-order bat with all-star potential.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.290	83	290	60	84	23	2	16	59	49	78	35	.400	.548

4 SETH **HERNANDEZ** RHP

FB: 65. **CB:** 55. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 70. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 50.

Born: June 28, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 195.
Drafted: HS—Corona, CA, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Mark Sluys.

TRACK RECORD: The Pirates' pitching development program has excelled at maximizing recent athletic high school pitchers such as Jared Jones, Bubba Chandler and Braxton Ashcraft. None entered pro ball with the pedigree or present skills of Hernandez, whom Pittsburgh drafted sixth in 2025 and signed for $7.25 million. Hernandez headlined a loaded Corona (Calif.) High team that also produced top 35 overall draft picks Billy Carlson and Brady Ebel.

SCOUTING REPORT: At 6-foot-4, 195 pounds, Hernandez presents size, polish and present velocity rarely seen in a teenager. His mid-90s fastball touched triple digits during his senior spring, and he should regularly sit in the upper 90s one day as he adds more strength. Even with his velocity, some amateur evaluators questioned how consistently the pitch would miss bats in pro ball because of its shape. Hernandez complements it with a low-80s changeup and two distinct breaking balls. His double-plus changeup is the jewel of his secondaries. Hernandez throws it with a circle grip and shows advanced feel to use it to both miss bats and land for strikes. He also mixes a mid-to-upper-80s slider and a low-80s curveball, each flashing above-average potential with a bit more power since turning pro. The Pirates were particularly impressed by how he tightened his slider into more of a swing-and-miss pitch. Hernandez throws plenty of strikes, moves well on the mound with an advanced understanding of how to create power in his delivery and even drew some amateur interest as a legitimate two-way prospect.

THE FUTURE: While high school righthanders carry inherent risk, Hernandez has frontline potential and has drawn comparisons to Hunter Greene and Jackson Jobe. With his athleticism, deep repertoire and advanced strike-throwing, he has the ingredients to move quickly and is set to make his pro debut.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	19	Did not play															

Edward Florentino

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Edward Florentino
Best Power Hitter	Tony Blanco Jr.
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Edgleen Perez
Fastest Baserunner	Konnor Griffin
Best Athlete	Konnor Griffin

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Reinold Navarro
Best Curveball	Seth Hernandez
Best Slider	Ryan Harbin
Best Changeup	Seth Hernandez
Best Control	Connor Wietgrefe

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Richard Ramirez
Best Defensive Infielder	Jack Brannigan
Best Infield Arm	Konnor Griffin
Best Defensive Outfielder	Konnor Griffin
Best Outfield Arm	Konnor Griffin

5 RAFAEL **FLORES** C/1B

HIT: 40. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 40. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: November 7, 2000. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 220.
Drafted: Rio Hondo (CA) JC, 2022 (UDFA). **Signed by:** Dave Keith (Yankees).

TRACK RECORD: Flores went undrafted in 2022 after stints at two California junior colleges and was playing summer ball in Alaska when the Yankees signed him for just $75,000. Three years later, that decision looks like a remarkable bit of scouting and development. After a swing change early on as a pro, Flores slugged his way to the upper minors, producing 20-plus homers in each of the past two seasons. The Pirates acquired him as the lead piece in the 2025 deadline deal that sent closer David Bednar to New York. He debuted for Pittsburgh in September.

SCOUTING REPORT: Power is Flores' carrying tool. The sturdily built righthanded hitter employs a big leg kick and above-average bat speed to generate some of the loudest exit velocities in Pittsburgh's system and all-fields power. The tradeoff is considerable swing-and-miss. Flores whiffed nearly a third of the time in the minors in 2025 and remains vulnerable up in the zone and on the inner third. The Pirates believe further swing adjustments—particularly improving rotation efficiency and barrel adjustability—could help him tap into even more consistent pull-side juice. Defensively, Flores is a serviceable receiver with adequate framing and game-calling skills, though his slower transfer and inconsistent throwing accuracy raise questions about his long-term upside behind the plate. He logged most of his minor league innings at catcher but also saw time at first base, where he appeared in six of his seven big league games.

THE FUTURE: Flores' swing-and-miss remains a blemish on his right-on-right profile, but his power and defensive versatility across catcher and first base give him a chance to emerge as an everyday regular. He should compete for a big league role out of spring training in 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	24	Minors (3 teams)	AA,AAA	.280	133	508	68	142	27	2	22	88	56	148	6	.354	.470
2025	24	Pittsburgh (NL)	MLB	.200	7	15	0	3	2	0	0	0	2	7	0	.294	.333

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (GRIFFIN), MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (FLORENTINO)

6 TERMARR **JOHNSON** 2B

HIT: 50. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 40. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: June 11, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 5-9. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—Atlanta, GA, 2022 (1st round). **Signed by:** Cam Murphy.

TRACK RECORD: The Pirates drafted Johnson fourth overall in 2022 in a class that has produced more first-round misses than hits so far. His development has been a slower burn. The 21-year-old spent all of 2025 with Double-A Altoona, where he was again one of the younger hitters in the league, and slashed .272/.363/.382 with a 119 wRC+ in 119 games. He finished strong by hitting .326 over his final 36 games, though he homered only once after July 1.

SCOUTING REPORT: Considered one of the most polished high school hitters of the last two decades coming out of the draft, Johnson's offensive identity in pro ball remains in flux after three full seasons. His most productive full season came in 2023, when he posted a 139 wRC+ with an approach geared more toward power and patience. His 2025 season landed somewhere in between those two approaches. Johnson continues to show advanced zone control and posted a career-best 75.4% contact rate. He pairs that with above-average bat speed and raw power, especially to his pull side. That power doesn't always translate into games, and his underlying impact numbers were more average. Caveat: his home ballpark in Altoona did him no favors. Johnson has exploitable holes on the outer third, where he struggles to do much damage, and the Pirates worked with him to slowly move his stance closer to the plate. Defensively, Johnson played exclusively at second base in 2025 after splitting time at shortstop earlier in his career. He has solid hands, but fringy range and arm strength, making him a fit only at the keystone.

THE FUTURE: Johnson's limited defensive value means he'll have to hit to become an everyday regular at second base. If Johnson can find a way for all the ingredients to coalesce, a big league debut in the first half of 2026 isn't out of the question.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Altoona (EL)	AA	.272	119	434	67	118	15	3	9	35	59	93	20	.363	.382

7 ANTWONE **KELLY** RHP

FB: 70. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 55. **CT:** 45. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: September 1, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 247.
Signed: Aruba, 2021. **Signed by:** Eugene Helder.

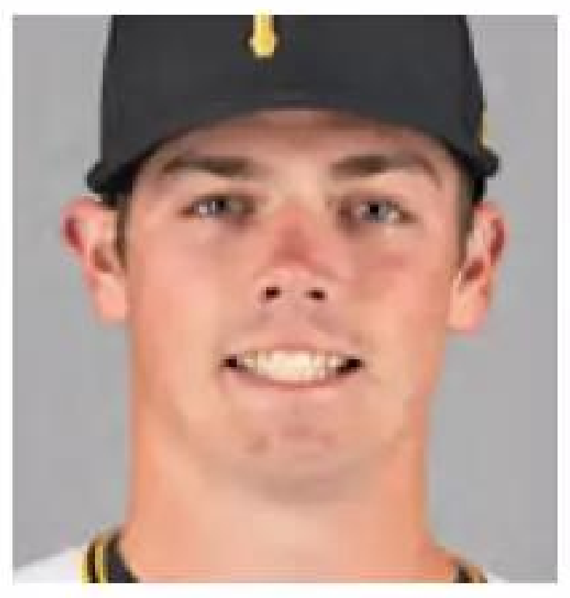
TRACK RECORD: The Pirates have a strong track record of developing under-the-radar arms, and Kelly fit that profile with a breakout 2025. Signed out of Aruba in 2021, he made his stateside debut the following year and steadily climbed the ladder. In 2025, he pitched to a 3.02 ERA over 107.1 innings between High-A Greensboro and Double-A Altoona, striking out 27.2% of batters compared to a career-best 7.7% walk rate.

SCOUTING REPORT: Added power across his entire arsenal has unlocked another level for Kelly. Having grown three inches and added more than 60 pounds from his listed weight of 183 pounds, the righthander reshaped his body entering 2025 after an oblique injury hampered him the year before. Those strength gains translated to an additional 3 mph on a fastball that now averages 97, touches 101 and carries well through the zone. He throws it for strikes roughly 70% of the time, showing advanced control, though his delivery isn't particularly deceptive and produced only average whiff rates. He has solid feel for an above-average upper-80s changeup that has significant vertical separation and induced a whiff in nearly 40% of swings. Kelly's upper-80s slider shows above-average potential but remains inconsistent, and he shelved his cutter later in the season to focus on slider development. With above-average command and the ability to hold velocity deep into outings, his path to a rotation role depends on refining his breaking ball into another reliable swing-and-miss option.

THE FUTURE: Kelly's velocity spike raised his ceiling. If his slider takes a similar step forward in 2026, he projects as a midrotation starter with the fallback as a late-inning reliever who can overpower hitters. An MLB debut in 2026 isn't out of the question after he closed 2025 at Double-A Altoona.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	3	3	3.02	25	25	107	81	6	33	116	0.5	7.7	27.2	1.06

8 HUNTER **BARCO** LHP



FB: 55. **SL:** 50. SPLT: 55. **CT:** 40. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: December 15, 2000. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 225.
Drafted: Florida, 2022 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Cam Murphy.

TRACK RECORD: Barco was a well-known amateur who made 29 starts at Florida before Tommy John surgery ended his college career in 2022. The Pirates drafted him 44th overall that year, though his recovery and a 2024 stress fracture in his leg ate into his development. Pittsburgh managed his workload carefully in 2025, but he was healthier aside from a brief shoulder strain in May. He cleared 100 innings for the first time as a pro before debuting in a big league relief role in September.

SCOUTING REPORT: The 6-foot-4, 225-pound lefthander found success as a starter in the upper minors by leaning on a 93 mph fastball that plays more on shape and deception than raw velocity. Thrown from a very low slot, the pitch creates a difficult approach angle, and he filled the zone with it nearly 70% of the time in 2025. Barco had a much tougher time commanding his secondaries, but he generates whiffs with both his average low-80s slider and above-average mid-80s splitter. He added a mid-80s cutter as a developmental offering—especially against lefties—that can steal strikes and enhance how the splitter plays off his breaking pitches. Whether Barco has enough precision to remain a starter is an open question. His intricate delivery requires some maintenance, and his strike-throwing wavers when he isn't squared to the batter at release.

THE FUTURE: Barco has back-of-the-rotation upside if he can throw enough quality strikes to turn over a lineup twice. If not, he has the fallback of a multi-inning reliever. He'll compete for a role in the Pirates' crowded rotation out of spring training.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	24	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	4	1	2.81	27	23	99	70	5	49	116	0.5	11.8	27.8	1.20
2025	24	Pittsburgh (NL)	MLB	1	0	0.00	2	0	3	3	0	0	3	0.0	0.0	25.0	1.00

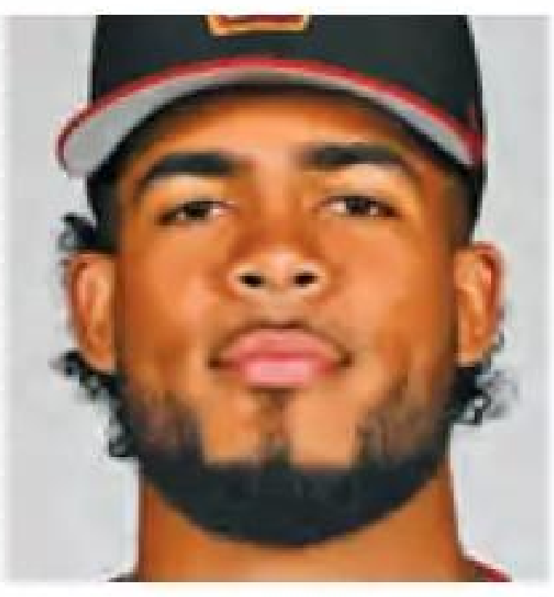
Baseball America
THAT WAS FAST!

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	**Paul Skenes**	27
No. 2 Starter	Bubba Chandler	26
No. 3 Starter	Seth Hernandez	22
No. 4 Starter	Jared Jones	27
No. 5 Starter	Braxton Ashcraft	29
Closer	Antwone Kelly	25
Catcher	Rafael Flores	28
First Base	Spencer Horwitz	31
Second Base	Termarr Johnson	24
Third Base	Jared Triolo	31
Shortstop	Konnor Griffin	23
Left Field	Bryan Reynolds	34
Center Field	Oneil Cruz	30
Right Field	Edward Florentino	22
Designated Hitter	Esmerlyn Valdez	25

9 WILBER **DOTEL** RHP



FB: 60. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 50. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: September 25, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 228.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2020. **Signed by:** Cristino Valdez.

TRACK RECORD: Dotel was an older sign late in the 2020 scouting cycle as an 18-year-old out of the Dominican Republic. He has since emerged as a dependable workhorse who has logged more than 300 innings since 2023 while jumping on a level-a-year trajectory. He spent all of 2025 with Double-A Altoona, where he posted a 4.15 ERA with 131 strikeouts over 125.2 innings—the most by any Pirates minor leaguer—and a career-best 8% walk rate. He ranked third in the Eastern League in strikeouts for an Altoona team that made the playoffs.

SCOUTING REPORT: The powerful, 6-foot-3, 228-pound righthander has added about 5 mph over the past two seasons to his fastball, which is now averaging 96 and touching 100. He has also worked to better separate his four-seamer and two-seamer while replacing a fringy changeup with a mid-80s splitter in 2025 that he commands more consistently and has emerged as a solid-average swing-and-miss pitch. His upper-80s slider flashes plus. Based on raw traits, it's one of the more impressive offerings in Pittsburgh's system, though he has a tendency to overthrow it in two-strike counts. Dotel is still learning how to sequence his now well-rounded arsenal, and his strikeout rate (24%) lagged behind his pure stuff for the second consecutive season. That wasn't due to control issues, however, as he landed each of his pitches in the zone at least 60% of the time.

THE FUTURE: Like fellow power righthander Antwone Kelly, Dotel boasts elite velocity, the chance for three plus pitches and enough strikes to remain a starter. Continued refinement of his slider and ability to finish at-bats could push him into the back of a rotation, with a high-leverage relief role as a strong fallback.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Altoona (EL)	AA	7	9	4.15	27	27	126	111	14	43	131	1.0	8.0	24.5	1.23

10 ESMERLYN **VALDEZ** OF/1B

HIT: 40. **POW:** 65. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 40. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 35.

Born: January 27, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 227.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2021. **Signed by:** Victor Santana.

TRACK RECORD: Valdez signed for $130,000 out of the Dominican Republic in 2021 and established himself as one of the minors' more dangerous power bats in 2024, when he slugged 22 homers for Low-A Bradenton. He followed with 26 more in 2025, doing most of his damage at High-A Greensboro before hitting .260/.363/.409 with six homers in 51 games for Double-A Altoona. Valdez made the Futures Game and ranked third among players 21 or younger in homers, trailing only the Mariners' Lazaro Montes (32) and the Mets' Ryan Clifford (29).

SCOUTING REPORT: With an uphill swing geared toward all-fields damage and easy plus raw power, Valdez makes no secret about his intent in most at-bats. He made some adjustments in 2025 to tap into that power more consistently and raised his 90th percentile exit velocity by nearly 3 mph compared to 2024. Earlier in his career, Valdez's steep swing path inhibited him from making consistent contact. After modestly cutting down his attack angle and chase rates, he improved his contact rate to a career-best 72.4% in 2025. Valdez will need to prove his plan of attack can work against more advanced pitching. His miss rate still hovered around 30%, and there are concerns that his swing remains vulnerable to velocity up in the zone and sliders away. He can fly open early on his front side as well. Defensively, Valdez offers limited value. He's a below-average runner with a fringy arm in right field and also saw time at first base, though scouts believe he moves better in the outfield.

THE FUTURE: Valdez's home-road splits and sheer underlying power should allay concerns that his 2025 home run barrage is a Greensboro-aided breakout. Righthanded corner profiles are tough, but his 2025 breakout put him on the Pirates' map and Triple-A Indianapolis awaits early in 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.286	123	458	75	131	25	2	26	86	56	130	3	.376	.520

JUSTIN BERL/GETTY IMAGES (SKENES)

TOP 10

by GEOFF PONTES

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES

1 JJ WETHERHOLT SS

HIT: 70. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 60.

Born: September 10, 2002. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: West Virginia, 2024 (1st round).
Signed by: TC Calhoun.

TRACK RECORD: Wetherholt played for Andy Bednar at Mars Area High outside Pittsburgh and was teammates with Andy's son Will Bednar, the Giants' 2021 first-round pick, before committing to West Virginia. After hitting .308 as a freshman in 2022, Wetherholt followed it up with an outstanding sophomore season at WVU in which he hit .449/.517/.787 and led the nation in batting average. After an injury-plagued junior season, Wetherholt was drafted by the Cardinals seventh overall and signed for $6.8 million. He was assigned to Double-A Springfield out of camp to begin 2025 and would go on to hit .300/.425/.466 in 62 games. Days before participating in the Futures Game, Wetherholt was promoted to Triple-A Memphis, where he hit .314/.416/.562 in 47 games. His .421 on-base percentage ranked fifth overall in the minors.

SCOUTING REPORT: Wetherholt is an above-average athlete with a strong and physically mature build with little room for additional physical projection. He is a well-rounded player who does everything at an average or better level. Make no mistake: Wetherholt's profile is driven by his advanced hit tool and developed plate skills. He has a simple, low-effort operation at the plate. The lefthanded batter sets up open, with his hands loosely set below his shoulder. He uses a flatter swing path that often connects for his best-struck drives to the opposite field. His loose, adjustable hands and discerning eye at the plate limit his swing and miss, leading to plus contact rates. His ability to identify balls from strikes sets him apart from other top prospects. Wetherholt rarely expands the zone but is aggressive on pitches over the heart of the plate. He has shown average power throughout his career but began to show more over-the-fence thump during his time at Triple-A. Wetherholt makes consistent hard contact at good angles but lacks higher top-end exit velocities synonymous with 30-homer hitters. He'll likely settle within the 18-24 home run range for his prime seasons with lots of doubles and a higher batting average. Wetherholt is an above-average runner who will show plus run times. Speed is an underappreciated aspect of his profile, and he's a strong baserunner who will likely steal 15-20 bases per season in the early years of his career. In the field, Wetherholt is an adept defender who projects to stick on the left side of the infield. His defense at shortstop is good enough to make him an above-average defender over the long haul. If he should move to third base, he projects as a plus defender, where his above-average arm fits.

THE FUTURE: Wetherholt will likely break camp with the Cardinals to begin 2026 and could be the long-term answer at multiple positions on the infield. He's a star in the making and the best hitter the Cardinals have produced in a decade.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Alex Reyes, RHP	Did not play
2017	Alex Reyes, RHP	Did not play
2018	Alex Reyes, RHP	Did not play
2019	Alex Reyes, RHP	Did not play
2020	Dylan Carlson, OF	Orioles
2021	Dylan Carlson, OF	Orioles
2022	Jordan Walker, 3B	Cardinals
2023	Jordan Walker, 3B/OF	Cardinals
2024	Masyn Winn, SS	Cardinals
2025	JJ Wetherholt, SS	Cardinals

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	.306	109	408	82	125	28	2	17	59	72	73	23	.421	.510

2 LIAM **DOYLE** LHP

FB: 70. **CB:** 40. **SL:** 50. **SP:** 55 **CT:** 50. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 50.

Born: June 3, 2004. **B-T:** R-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 220.
Drafted: Tennessee, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** TC Calhoun.

TRACK RECORD: A New Hampshire prep star, Doyle threw five no-hitters and a perfect game over four seasons at Pinkerton Academy. Few players have leveraged the transfer portal as well as Doyle, who spent one season each at Coastal Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee. As a junior for the Volunteers in 2025, he pitched to a 10-4 record, 3.20 ERA and 164 strikeouts in 95.2 innings and earned first-team All-America honors. The Cardinals drafted him fifth overall and signed him for $7.25 million. Doyle made two appearances after signing.

SCOUTING REPORT: Doyle is a physical lefthander with average height but a muscular and athletic frame. His higher-effort operation creates a bit of deception with a longer arm action, low three-quarters arm slot and a crossfire finish. Because of this, he faces relief questions despite a track record of success as a starter. Doyle mixes five pitches in his four-seam fastball, cutter, slider, curveball and splitter. During his time at Tennessee, he threw his fastball more than 62% of the time, something likely to tick down in pro ball. Doyle's fastball is a double-plus pitch that generated high swinging-strike rates in the SEC. It sits 95-97 mph and touches 100 with plus vertical ride from a low release height. His secondary pitch usage is divided equally between an above-average, mid-to-high-80s splitter, an average cutter, an average sweeper and a low-80s curveball. The splitter is clearly Doyle's best bat-missing secondary, and development of a dependable breaking ball will be a point of emphasis. He has average control but shows above-average command by landing his pitches to chosen zones with regularity.

THE FUTURE: Doyle is a fast-moving college lefthander who could pitch his way to the middle of the Cardinals' rotation by mid 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A,AA	0	0	2.45	2	2	4	3	1	2	6	2.5	13.3	40.0	1.36

3 RAINIEL **RODRIGUEZ** C

HIT: 60. **POW:** 65. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 50.

Born: January 4, 2007. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 197.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024. **Signed by:** Darlumis Almonte/Alix Martinez.

TRACK RECORD: Born in the Dominican Republic, Rodriguez's family moved to Philadelphia when he was entering fifth grade. After playing baseball in the U.S. through his freshman year of high school, he moved back to the D.R. at age 16. He signed with the Cardinals in April 2024 for $300,000 and debuted in the Dominican Summer League two months later. After hitting .345/.462/.683 and being named a DSL all-star, Rodriguez came stateside in 2025. He played at three levels, starting in the Florida Complex, reaching Low-A Palm Beach in June and High-A Peoria in September. He hit .276/.399/.555 with 20 home runs in 84 games.

SCOUTING REPORT: Since stepping foot on a professional baseball field, Rodriguez has displayed a blend of advanced plate skills, plus-plus raw power and elite batted-ball angles. His knack for finding the barrel is his defining skill. He shows the ability to consistently drive the ball in the air. Rodriguez's contact skills and swing decisions are above-average for age and level, and he does a good job limiting strikeouts and getting on base. While the plate skills are impressive Rodriguez's plus-plus raw power is his loudest tool. He consistently gets to it in games by running high barrel and pulled-air rates. Rodriguez is an optimized hitter with strong underlying skills, power and launch. Behind the plate, he is more of a work in progress. He has a plus arm and does a good job of controlling the running game but is a below-average blocker and receiver. He has a good chance to stick behind the plate and could make large strides as a receiver and framer in the coming years.

THE FUTURE: Rodriguez is one of the highest upside prospects in the game. If it all clicks, he could be an all-star-level bat with average catcher defense.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (3 teams)	Rk,A,A+	.276	84	301	59	83	22	1	20	63	54	65	4	.399	.555

4 JOSHUA **BAEZ** OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 65. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 45.

Born: June 28, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 220.
Drafted: HS—Brookline, MA, 2021 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Jim Negrych.

TRACK RECORD: A standout Boston-area high school player with a physical frame and a tantalizing combination of tools, Baez signed for $2.25 million in the second round of the 2021 draft. He spent his first three full professional seasons struggling with injuries and swing-and-miss issues. After the 2024 season, Baez made adjustments to his swing and found another gear at the plate. He hit .287/.384/.500 with 20 home runs and 54 stolen bases between High-A and Double-A. Most importantly, Baez cut his strikeout rate from 35.5% in 2024 to 20.6% in 2025. It was a true renaissance season for Baez.

SCOUTING REPORT: A physical specimen, Baez looks like a football player in the outfield. He has a muscular frame with quick-twitch athleticism and impressive power output. After years of struggling with poor bat-to-ball skills and middling swing decisions, Baez made a few radical changes that manifested in significantly more contact. He reworked his lower half in the offseason and then made further adjustments over the first month of the 2025 season with High-A Peoria, getting more upright and closing his swing. What resulted was the best production of his career. Baez now projects as an average contact hitter with plus on-base skills. His raw power is 70-grade and he gets to it in games more consistently with the adjustments to his swing. A plus runner, Baez was one of the best basestealers in the minors in 2025 and presents a true plus power and speed combination. He can handle center field but is better in a corner. He has a plus arm that is capable of making every throw on the field.

THE FUTURE: Baez broke out in a major way in 2025 and looks like he could debut for the Cardinals in 2026. He's a potential above-average regular with the potential for 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.287	117	418	78	120	23	3	20	79	59	103	54	.384	.500

Liam
Doyle

BEST TOOLS

BATTING	
Best Hitter	JJ Wetherholt
Best Power Hitter	Rainiel Rodriguez
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	JJ Wetherholt
Fastest Baserunner	Joshua Baez
Best Athlete	Joshua Baez

PITCHING	
Best Fastball	Liam Doyle
Best Curveball	Tekoah Roby
Best Slider	Tanner Franklin
Best Changeup	Braden Davis
Best Control	Tekoah Roby

FIELDING	
Best Defensive Catcher	Jimmy Crooks
Best Defensive Infielder	JJ Wetherholt
Best Infield Arm	Yairo Padilla
Best Defensive Outfielder	Nathan Church
Best Outfield Arm	Joshua Baez

5 QUINN **MATHEWS** LHP

FB: 50. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 45.

Born: October 4, 2000. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 188.
Drafted: Stanford, 2023 (4th round). **Signed by:** Stacey Pettis.

TRACK RECORD: Mathews spent four years in the Stanford rotation. He returned for a fourth season after being drafted by the Rays in the 19th round in 2022. He would go on to win Pacific-12 Conference pitcher of the year honors in 2023 and was selected that July in the fourth round by the Cardinals. An outstanding professional debut in 2024, in which he climbed from Low-A to Triple-A, earned Mathews BA's Minor League Pitcher of the Year award. His 2025 campaign was marred by a left shoulder injury in April that required a six-week stint on the injured list.

SCOUTING REPORT: Mathews is a tall, lean lefthander with little to no remaining projection. A year after making waves with added velocity and strong results to match, he dealt with a mechanical issue in 2025 that manifested in left shoulder soreness. Mathews returned in late May and struggled with command leading up to the all-star break. He returned to form somewhat in the second half but still struggled with strike-throwing. Mathews saw a drop in velocity across his arsenal, only for it to return over the final starts of 2025 for Triple-A Memphis. Mathews throws a four-seam fastball, a newly added two-seam fastball, a mid-80s cut-slider, a low-80s changeup and a curveball. His changeup is his best secondary pitch and a true plus pitch. His slider is above-average and leads to a lot of positive outcomes. His curveball is a fourth pitch but is effective at driving whiffs and bad contact. Mathews dealt with substantial strike-throwing issues in 2025, and it was likely driven by the injury. His previous track record suggests average or better control.

THE FUTURE: The 2025 season is one Mathews would like to forget. Despite the struggles, he looks like a viable long-term No. 4 starter who could reach St. Louis as soon as 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	24	Minors (3 teams)	Rk,A,AAA	4	7	3.73	24	24	99	79	6	74	115	0.5	16.8	26.1	1.55

6 TANNER **FRANKLIN** RHP

FB: 70. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 45. **CT:** 50. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: May 25, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 240.
Drafted: Tennessee, 2025 (2nd round). **Signed by:** TC Calhoun.

TRACK RECORD: After two seasons pitching out of the bullpen for Kennesaw State, Franklin made the jump to Tennessee prior to his junior season in 2025. He made a career-high 27 appearances for the Volunteers, striking out 52 across 38.2 innings. The Cardinals drafted Franklin in the second round in 2025 and signed him for a little over $1.1 million. To begin his professional career, he was deployed as a starter across three appearances at both Class A levels.

SCOUTING REPORT: Franklin is a 6-foot-5, physical righthander who delivers the ball from a three-quarters arm slot with a slight crossfire finish. Entering his junior campaign, Franklin added 3 mph to his four-seam fastball and improved his spin efficiency, which resulted in more ride, armside run and a more deceptive plane of approach to the plate. Franklin's fastball is now a double-plus pitch, with velocity, movement and release traits befitting its 70 grade. His go-to secondary pitch is a cutter in the low 90s. Much like his fastball, his cutter also jumped more than 3 mph. The pitch added ride and lost horizontal break, creating more cut. Franklin's slider is a mid-80s mini-sweeper with shorter break than a traditional sweeper. The slider drives the highest miss rate in his arsenal and projects as an above-average pitch. His changeup was rarely used but showed good vertical separation off his fastball and the potential to become an average pitch. He threw a curveball as a sophomore at Kennesaw State but ditched the pitch when he transferred to Tennessee. Franklin's command is fringe-average and will need to improve for him to make the jump to a starting role.

THE FUTURE: The Cardinals plan to deploy Franklin as a starter in 2026. Equipped with plus stuff and improved command, he could successfully make the jump into the rotation.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A,A+	0	0	1.50	3	3	6	4	0	5	9	0.0	17.9	32.1	1.50

7 IXAN **HENDERSON** LHP

FB: 50. **CB:** 40. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 50. **CT:** 30. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: January 29, 2002. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 200.
Drafted: Fresno State, 2023 (8th round). **Signed by:** Stacey Pettis.

TRACK RECORD: Henderson spent three seasons Fresno State, his hometown school, earning all-Mountain West Conference honors in 2022 and 2023. The Cardinals drafted Henderson in the eighth round in 2023 and signed him for $230,000. After spending the 2024 season split between Low-A and High-A, Henderson broke camp with Double-A Springfield in 2025. Across 25 starts spanning 132 innings, he pitched to a 2.59 ERA and won the Texas League ERA title. The league's pitcher of the year, Henderson broke out in a big way.

SCOUTING REPORT: Henderson is an average-sized lefthander with a longer arm action and a deceptive three-quarters arm slot. He repeats his mechanics well and shows a deep arsenal of pitches, keeping hitters off-balance despite a lack of velocity. Henderson's fastball sits 92-94 mph and touches 95-96. The pitch has average ride but late armside run that explodes on hitters. He has plus command of his fastball and does a good job of avoiding the heart of the plate. Henderson thrives on his ability to work the top and bottom of the zone effectively. His top secondary pitch is a sweeper sitting in the low 80s with more than a foot of horizontal break on average with some tilt. Henderson's changeup is his best swing-and-miss pitch and shows good vertical separation off his fastball. He will mix in a mid-70s curveball with two-plane break as a change of pace from his sweeper. He threw a few cutters during the 2025 season, but it was used sparingly. Henderson's control is better than his walk rates suggest, and the lefthander does a good job of navigating the shadow zone and avoiding barrels.

THE FUTURE: Henderson looks like a soon-to-the-majors No. 5 starter with limited upside. The 2026 season and his first taste of Triple-A will be a test of his fastball quality.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	23	Springfield (TL)	AA	9	7	2.59	25	25	132	99	5	51	134	0.3	9.6	25.2	1.14

8 JIMMY **CROOKS** C

HIT: 45. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: July 19, 2001. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 210.
Drafted: Oklahoma, 2022 (4th round). **Signed by:** Pete Parise.

TRACK RECORD: After starting his college career at McLennan Junior College in Texas, Crooks transferred to Oklahoma, where he spent two seasons. The Cardinals drafted him in the fourth round in 2022, and he has moved a level a year since signing. After winning the Texas League MVP in 2024, Crooks spent most of 2025 with Triple-A Memphis. The Cardinals called up Crooks on Aug. 29, and he spent the final month of the season with the team.

SCOUTING REPORT: A year after breaking out at the plate, Crooks took a step back in his first full season at Triple-A. He struggled against spin and consistently whiffed on breaking balls in the zone. This in turn shrunk his contact rates and increased his strikeouts. In addition to the swing-and-miss, Crooks' approach backed up and he chased pitches at a higher rate. He produced similar power numbers in 2025 thanks to improved top-end exit velocities. Crooks' batted-ball angles are inconsistent and worse than they were in 2024. He still has a fairly high barrel rate, despite an inability to pull the ball in the air consistently. Behind the plate, Crooks is an above-average defender who is an excellent blocker. He does a good job of keeping the ball in front of him and controlling bounces on low pitches. His arm is above-average, allowing him to overcome below-average exchanges. Crooks looks like a sure thing to stick behind the plate and could develop into an above-average defender. His step backward as a hitter in 2025 leads to some questions around his viability as a primary catcher.

THE FUTURE: The lefthanded-hitting Crooks ascended to MLB in late 2025 and looks to be a part of the Cardinals' catching platoon headed into 2026.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	23	Memphis (IL)	AAA	.274	98	390	61	107	21	1	14	79	36	114	0	.337	.441
2025	23	St. Louis (NL)	MLB	.133	15	45	3	6	0	1	1	1	0	17	0	.152	.244

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Liam Doyle	25
No. 2 Starter	Quinn Mathews	28
No. 3 Starter	Matthew Liberatore	29
No. 4 Starter	Tanner Franklin	25
No. 5 Starter	Ixan Henderson	27
Closer	Matt Svanson	30

Catcher	Rainiel Rodriguez	22
First Base	Alec Burleson	30
Second Base	Thomas Saggese	27
Third Base	JJ Wetherholt	26
Shortstop	**Masyn Winn**	27
Left Field	Jordan Walker	27
Center Field	Victor Scott II	28
Right Field	Joshua Baez	26
Designated Hitter	Ivan Herrera	29

9 LEONARDO **BERNAL** C

HIT: 50. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: February 13, 2004. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 200.
Signed: Panama, 2021. **Signed by:** Damaso Espino.

TRACK RECORD: Bernal signed out of Panama in 2021 for $680,000. After debuting in the Dominican Summer League, he jumped stateside to begin 2022, skipping the Florida Complex League entirely. After spending all of 2022 and 2023 with Low-A Palm Beach, Bernal made the jump to High-A in 2024. He spent all of 2025 with Double-A Springfield and hit .247/.332/.395 in 107 games, making 87 starts behind the plate.

SCOUTING REPORT: Bernal is a switch-hitting catcher with a maxed-out physical frame and a stout build. His righthanded swing is far more advanced than his lefthanded one. Bernal's approach from the lefthanded side is better—he makes more contact and chases less. However, his righthanded swing generates more power and better angles on contact, leading to better results. Overall he shows average plate skills and average power when balancing his two swings. Bernal does a good job of avoiding whiffs and tends to stay inside of his approach. Adding impact when hitting lefthanded would truly boost his hitting profile to above-average. Bernal is a bigger-bodied catcher and has limited mobility. His blocking suffers due to a lack of athleticism behind the plate. He'll need to control blocked balls better to be an average or better defender. Bernal's arm is plus, and he consistently clocks sub-1.95 pop times on throws to second base. As an above-average framer and plus throwing catcher, Bernal is a sure bet to stick behind the plate, even if his blocking remains subpar.

THE FUTURE: Bernal looks like a rotation catcher who will see most of his starts against lefthanded pitchers. Improvements to his lefthanded swing and blocking ability could push him into everyday catcher territory.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Springfield (TL)	AA	.247	107	396	58	98	19	0	13	70	49	77	13	.332	.394

10 YAIRO **PADILLA** SS

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: June 28, 2007. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 199.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024. **Signed by:** Darluimis Almonte/Alix Martinez.

TRACK RECORD: Padilla signed with the Cardinals out of the Dominican Republic in January 2024 for $760,000. He went on to debut in the Dominican Summer League a few months later, hitting .287/.391/404 with 22 stolen bases. Padilla made the jump stateside in 2025 and spent the season in the Florida Complex League. There, the shortstop hit .283/.396/.367 with 18 walks to 21 strikeouts in 38 games.

SCOUTING REPORT: Padilla is a switch-hitting shortstop who is an exciting and projectable athlete. His body has matured in pro ball and he is a couple inches taller and nearly 30 pounds heavier than he was when he signed. Early in his career, Padilla has employed a contact-focused but passive approach at the plate, leading to low strikeout rates and high walks totals. Padilla shows plus bat-to-ball skills and rarely swings outside the zone. He's often far too passive on pitches over the heart of the plate, and that's an area that could likely be exploited by more advanced pitchers. Even though Padilla lacks present power production, evaluators view him as a player who will grow into above-average power in time. His top-end exit velocities support this with a 102.1 mph 90th percentile EV, which is above-average for age and level. Padilla struggles to pull the ball in the air from both sides of the plate, though his power is more pronounced when batting lefthanded. Padilla is a plus runner who should steal 20-plus bases annually at peak. His defense projects to be above-average in time, with good actions and athleticism. His arm is plus and may be the best among Cardinals minor leaguers.

THE FUTURE: Padilla is a player with a lot of variance. He could be an everyday shortstop, but it's going to take years to gel. He should make his full-season debut in 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	FCL Cardinals	Rk	.283	38	120	21	34	4	3	0	10	18	21	24	.396	.367

BRIAN WESTERHOLT/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (DOYLE), MEGAN BRIGGS/GETTY IMAGES (WINN)

TOP 10

By PETER FLAHERTY

1 ETHAN SALAS C

HIT: 45. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 70. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: June 1, 2006. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 185.
Signed: Venezuela, 2023.
Signed by: Luis Prieto/Trevor Schumm/Jake Koenig.

TRACK RECORD: The top prospect in the 2023 international signing period, Salas' $5.6 million bonus was the highest in the class. He made his pro debut that same season with Low-A Lake Elsinore, but the Padres got everyone's attention when they promoted the then-17-year-old to High-A Fort Wayne and then Double-A San Antonio. Salas spent the entirety of the 2024 season with Fort Wayne, where he hit .206/.288/.311 with 33 extra-base hits and 10 stolen bases. He proceeded to play in the Arizona Fall League with Peoria and was named an AFL all-star. Salas' 2025 campaign was limited to just 10 games with San Antonio due to a stress fracture in his back.

SCOUTING REPORT: Salas is a defense-first prospect who stands out for his Gold Glove-caliber defense. He has ultra-soft hands, receives the ball well and does an outstanding job of controlling balls in the dirt. Salas' transfers are quick, and he consistently delivers strong, accurate throws to bases. Between his plus arm, receiving skills and ability to handle pitching staffs, he emphatically checks a lot of boxes defensively. Salas' offensive outlook is far more murky. Mechanically, he stands fairly tall in the lefthanded batter's box with a slightly open front side and an ear-high handset. Salas has an under control operation which includes a slight barrel tip that serves as a timing mechanism and a small stride. It's a simple and easy swing without a whole lot of moving parts. In 2024, Salas made a handful of small adjustments that ended up having a positive impact on his game. His taller stance and raised handset are a byproduct of him wanting to put more of an emphasis on working down and through the ball. Salas' bat-to-ball skills are above-average, and between 2024 and 2025 he's posted an overall in-zone contact rate of 86%. While Salas' power is geared more toward doubles than home runs, he has an all-fields approach and has shown he can drive the ball from gap to gap. Salas has long demonstrated an understanding of the strike zone, and he's decreased his strikeout rate in each of his professional seasons. Between 2023 and 2024 it sank from 25.8% to 20.9%. Salas is a bit susceptible to secondary pitches—especially changeups—which yield the majority of his swings and misses.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Javy Guerra, SS	Hanshin (NPB)
2017	Anderson Espinoza, RHP	Orix (NPB)
2018	Fernando Tatis Jr., SS	Padres
2019	Fernando Tatis Jr., SS	Padres
2020	MacKenzie Gore, LHP	Nationals
2021	MacKenzie Gore, LHP	Nationals
2022	CJ Abrams, SS	Nationals
2023	Jackson Merrill, SS	Padres
2024	Ethan Salas, C	Padres
2025	Leodalis De Vries, SS	Athletics

THE FUTURE: It's no secret that 2026 is a big year for Salas. After a topsy-turvy 2024 season and an injury-shortened 2025, the 19-year-old backstop has logged just 123 professional games since the conclusion of the 2023 season. His defense serves as a reassuring anchor to his profile, but eventual offensive profile is up in the air. Salas certainly fits the mold of a hit-over-power player, but there are questions as to how much he's going to hit. He could catch in the big leagues tomorrow, but he will need to prove that he can produce at the plate.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	San Antonio (TL)	AA	.188	10	32	5	6	1	0	0	5	6	5	2	.325	.219

2 KRUZ **SCHOOLCRAFT** LHP

FB: 60. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: April 18, 2007. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-8. **WT:** 229.
Drafted: HS—Portland, OR, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Justin Baughman.

TRACK RECORD: Initially a member of the draft class of 2026, Schoolcraft announced in December 2023 that he was reclassifying to the 2025 class. A two-way player throughout his prep career at Oregon's Sunset High in Beaverton, Schoolcraft boasted thunderous raw power at the plate to go along with good defense at first base and his ability on the mound. Schoolcraft had significant first-round buzz throughout the 2025 draft cycle, and the Padres drafted him 25th overall. He signed to a full-slot signing bonus of $3.61 million. Schoolcraft made one start with Low-A Lake Elsinore after the draft, logging 1.2 innings.

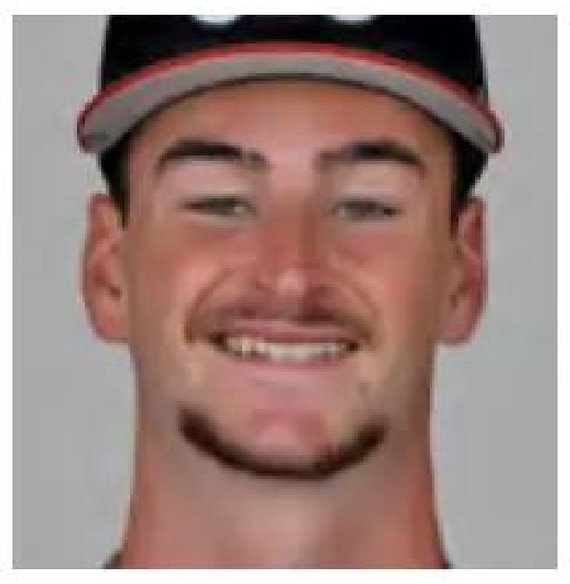
SCOUTING REPORT: A towering 6-foot-8, 229-pound lefthander, Schoolcraft has impressive coordination for a pitcher of his size. He repeats his delivery well and his elite extension figures to enable his entire arsenal to play up. Schoolcraft's fastball sits in the low-to-mid 90s, but it was up to 99 mph in unofficial bridge league action after the draft. He commands his heater well and uses it to set up his secondaries. Schoolcraft's low-to-mid-80s changeup is his best non-fastball, and it routinely flashes above-average. He completes his arsenal with a low-80s slider. His slider's power and movement profile give it a chance to evolve into an above-average offering. Schoolcraft's command is average and he consistently competes in and around the strike zone.

THE FUTURE: Schoolcraft's upside is immense. Not only does he look every bit the part of a starter, but he has front-of-the-rotation upside. Between his "now" stuff and projection remaining, Schoolcraft's ceiling is sky high, and at age 19 in 2026, the Padres have no reason to rush him. He is in line to begin 2026 with Lake Elsinore.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	18	Lake Elsinore (CAL)	A	0	0	10.80	1	1	2	1	0	3	4	0.0	33.3	44.4	2.40

3 KASH **MAYFIELD** LHP

FB: 50. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.



Born: February 8, 2005. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 200.
Drafted: HS—Elk City, OK, 2024 (1st round). **Signed by:** Steve Moritz.

TRACK RECORD: Mayfield established himself as one of the more polished strike-throwers in the 2024 draft class as an underclassman and was eventually selected 25th overall by the Padres. Mayfield signed a full-slot deal worth $3,442,100 and didn't make his professional debut until 2025. He enjoyed plenty of success with Low-A Lake Elsinore. Across 19 starts, Mayfield pitched to a 2.97 ERA with 88 strikeouts and 28 walks in 60.2 innings.

SCOUTING REPORT: Mayfield has a controlled, low-effort delivery that he repeats well. He has impressive control of his body and attacks hitters from a slightly lowered three-quarters slot. Mayfield's fastball averaged 90.9 mph and was up to 95 with life through the zone. It has a bit of a dead zone profile—meaning that the vertical and horizontal break numbers are similar—but Mayfield's ability to command the pitch allows him to get the most out of it. He is able to avoid hard contact, and the vast majority of whiffs he generates with his fastball come in the top third of the zone when he locates it above the barrel. Mayfield's bread-and-butter pitch is his changeup. It sits in the low-to-mid 80s, and it's another offering for which he has an advanced feel. Mayfield throws his change with conviction, and it regularly flashes both armside fade and late tumble. It's a plus pitch that in 2025 generated a whopping 55% miss rate. Mayfield rounds out his arsenal with an high-70s-to-low-80s slider. He's shown the ability to manipulate its shape, and it's a particularly difficult look for lefthanded hitters. It flashes two-plane break and garnered a 37% whiff rate in 2025. Mayfield's plus pitchability is a cherry on top.

THE FUTURE: After dominating Low-A in 2025, Mayfield is positioned to begin his 2026 campaign with High-A Fort Wayne. With an appealing blend of strikes and stuff, he projects as a potential No. 3 starter.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	20	Lake Elsinore (CAL)	A	1	5	2.97	19	19	61	46	2	28	88	0.3	10.9	34.1	1.22

4 MIGUEL **MENDEZ** RHP

FB: 55. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 50. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

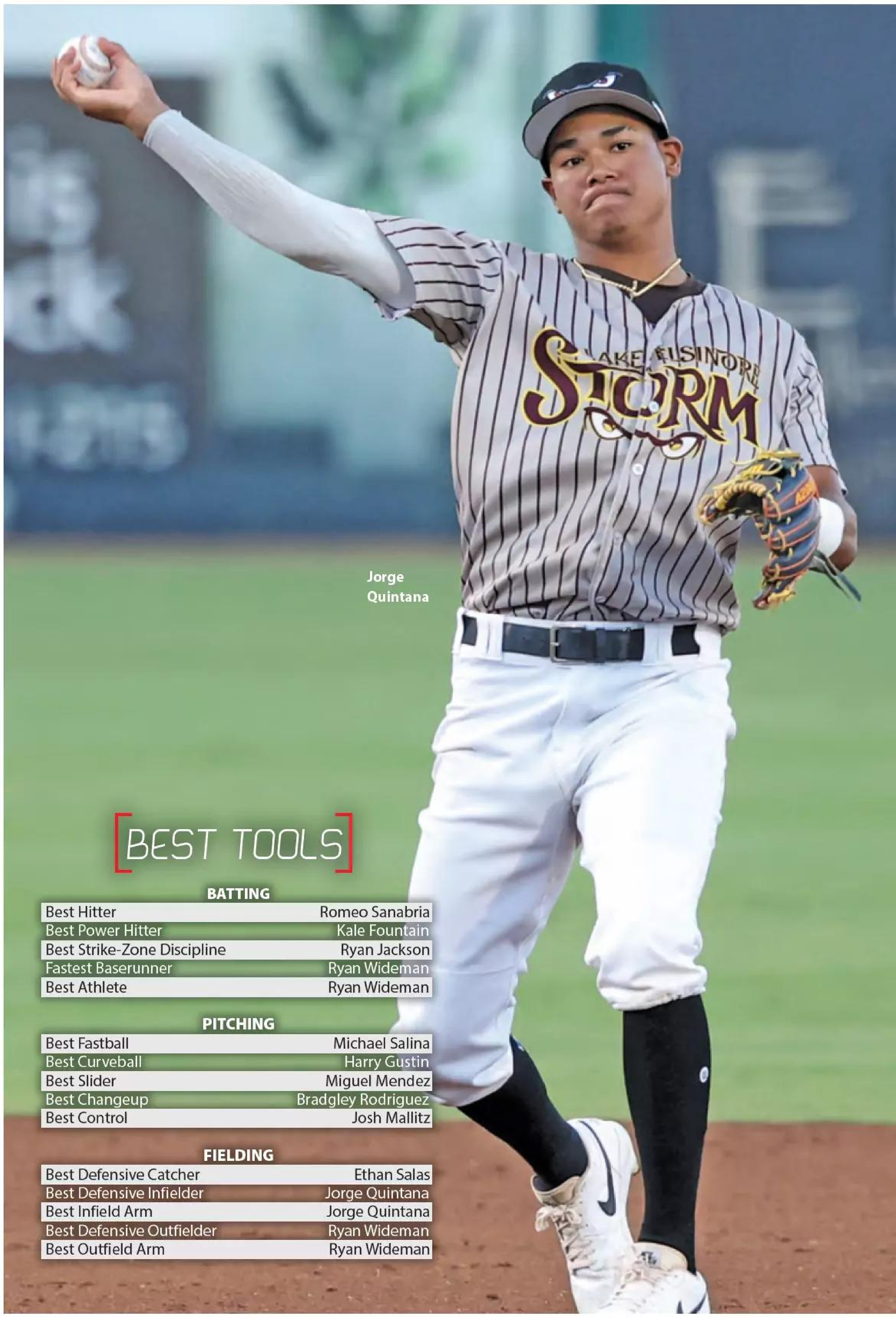
Born: July 1, 2002. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 165.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2021. **Signed by:** Jhonattan Feliz.

TRACK RECORD: Mendez had only been pitching for six months when the Padres signed him out of the Dominican Republic for just $10,000 in 2021. He began to show signs of blossoming in 2024, when he posted a 3.86 ERA with 86 strikeouts in 81.2 innings for Low-A Lake Elsinore. In 2025, he worked a minuscule 1.32 ERA with 70 strikeouts in 61.1 innings for High-A Fort Wayne. Mendez earned an August promotion to Double-A San Antonio, where he didn't quite have the same success but still managed to punch out 30 in 22.1 innings.

SCOUTING REPORT: Listed at 6-foot-2 and 165 pounds, Mendez has a slender, projectable build with some length in his lower half. His athleticism is evident on the mound, and he has a dynamic delivery with a degree of explosiveness. Mendez attacks hitters out of a slightly lowered three-quarters slot with no shortage of arm speed and features a fastball, slider and a changeup. Mendez's heater sits in the mid-to-upper-90s with both run and ride through the zone. It jumps out of his hand and plays especially well in the top half of the strike zone, which is also where it generates the vast majority of its swings and misses. Mendez's tight mid-to-upper-80s slider regularly generates empty swings. It flashes plus with sharp two-plane tilt, though against righthanded hitters it will sometimes have more length than depth. Mendez used his upper-80s-to-low-90s changeup just 8% of the time, but its results were encouraging. It garnered a 37% miss rate while flashing effective tumble and fade. His command is still a work in progress, but he decreased his walk rate from 14.9% to 11% between 2024 and 2025.

THE FUTURE: Mendez has one of the higher ceilings of any pitching prospect in San Diego's system and—assuming his command and control improve—could make his major league debut as soon as 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	22	Minors (3 teams)	A,A+,AA	8	7	3.22	21	21	95	71	7	45	118	0.7	11.2	29.4	1.22



Jorge Quintana

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Romeo Sanabria
Best Power Hitter	Kale Fountain
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Ryan Jackson
Fastest Baserunner	Ryan Wideman
Best Athlete	Ryan Wideman

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Michael Salina
Best Curveball	Harry Gustin
Best Slider	Miguel Mendez
Best Changeup	Bradgley Rodriguez
Best Control	Josh Mallitz

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Ethan Salas
Best Defensive Infielder	Jorge Quintana
Best Infield Arm	Jorge Quintana
Best Defensive Outfielder	Ryan Wideman
Best Outfield Arm	Ryan Wideman

5 JORGE **QUINTANA** SS

HIT: 40. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: April 5, 2007. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 185.
Signed: Venezuela, 2024. **Signed by:** Fernando Veracierto (Brewers).

TRACK RECORD: A member of the Brewers' 2024 international class, Quintana's $1.7 million bonus was tops in the group. Following a mediocre offensive campaign in the Dominican Summer League in 2024, Quintana's production was almost identical through 50 games in the Arizona Complex League in 2025. He and Nestor Cortes Jr. were dealt to the Padres at the 2025 trade deadline for Brandon Lockridge.

SCOUTING REPORT: A 6-foot-2 switch-hitter with projection remaining, Quintana was signed because of his offensive upside. The switch-hitter has an open stance in the batter's box with a high handset and a noticeable leg lift and barrel tip in his load. Quintana has flashed present impact to his pull side and his 90th percentile exit velocity of 104.1 mph ranks ninth among all hitters in the system. His power should only continue to tick up as he matures physically, though there are hit tool questions. Quintana did a nice job of staying within the strike zone and chased at a respectable 25% clip. But there are clear pitch recognition issues, and his contact skills were below-average in 2025. He struggled mightily against secondary pitches. The most encouraging part of Quintana's game continues to be his defense. After making positive strides with Milwaukee, that trend continued in 2025. He isn't the twitchiest player, but he has smooth actions, range and a sound internal clock to go along with an above-average arm. Quintana in 2025 also looked comfortable attacking the baseball and throwing from multiple arm slots.

THE FUTURE: Quintana's upside and up-the-middle profile are the two biggest positives in his profile, but how much he'll hit is still up in the air. After getting his feet wet in the Padres' system in 2025, he projects to spend most—if not all—of the 2026 season with Low-A Lake Elsinore.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.243	75	284	42	69	16	3	4	28	39	84	26	.339	.363

BILL MITCHELL (SALAS), BILL MITCHELL (SCHOOLCRAFT), BILL MITCHELL (QUINTANA)

6 HUMBERTO **CRUZ** RHP

FB: 50. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: December 18, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 170.
Signed: Mexico, 2024. **Signed by:** Emanuel Rangel.

TRACK RECORD: Cruz headlined the group of international pitchers the Padres signed in 2024. San Diego needed more bonus pool space to get Cruz's deal across the finish line, so they opted to trade 2023 12th-rounder Blake Dickerson to the Tigers to acquire the necessary funds. Cruz ultimately signed for $750,000 out of Mexico. Across 14 starts between the Arizona Complex League and Low-A Lake Elsinore in 2025, Cruz ran up a 7.58 ERA with 35 strikeouts and 17 walks in 38 innings. At the end of the season, Cruz had internal brace surgery on his elbow.

SCOUTING REPORT: Cruz is a slightly undersized righthander who has a high-waisted frame with room to continue to fill out. He has an athletic delivery that features an abbreviated arm stroke, and he attacks hitters out of a three-quarters slot with present arm speed. Cruz's fastball averaged nearly 94 mph and was up to 97, though he'll need to refine its shape. While it's a high-spin pitch, it has a dead zone profile and is not a bat-misser. Cruz's best offering is his low-to-mid-80s gyro slider. It flashes above-average potential, and the shape of it will vary. At times it takes on a sharp, two-plane look with depth and glove-side life, while at others it looks more like a true gyro slider with far more depth than lateral break. Cruz rounds out his arsenal with a mid-to-upper-80s changeup that profiles as a potentially above-average third pitch. Cruz throws it with conviction and it flashes ample fade to his arm side and is an effective bat-misser. His command is average and his ceiling is that of a midrotation starter.

THE FUTURE: There's a chance that Cruz's elbow procedure leaves him on the shelf for the entire 2026 season. There's no reason to rush the young righthander, and when he returns—either in late 2026 or in 2027—expect him to regain his footing in Lake Elsinore.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk, A	0	7	7.58	14	14	38	41	8	17	35	1.9	9.9	20.5	1.53

7 TY **HARVEY** C

HIT: 45. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 40. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: July 28, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 215.
Drafted: HS—Bradenton, FL, 2025 (5th round). **Signed by:** John Martin.

TRACK RECORD: A four-year standout at Inspiration Academy in Florida, Harvey posted a video game-like .571/682/1.044 slash line with 24 extra-base hits in 31 games as a high school senior in 2025. He ranked inside the top 250 draft prospects and was eventually selected by the Padres in the fifth round. Harvey's pro debut consisted of a seven-game stint with Low-A Lake Elsinore in which he went 4-for-23 (.174) with an RBI.

SCOUTING REPORT: Harvey is a 6-foot-2, 215-pound catcher whose combination of power and arm strength carries his profile. He has strength and physicality throughout his impressive frame. Harvey has a simple setup in the box as well as a fairly compact operation with present bat and hand speed. Harvey's bat speed and strength give him exciting power potential, though there are some swing-and-miss concerns which could hinder him from tapping into it consistently in games. While it was across a small sample, Harvey sported an unimpressive overall contact rate of 58%. On a more encouraging note, he displayed sound swing decisions and the ability to get on base. Harvey's hit tool will need a coat of polish, though his ability to impact the ball is exciting. Harvey has the defensive skills to stick behind the dish. His above-average arm is the headliner, but he's also demonstrated solid catch-and-throw skills with consistent strong, accurate throws to bases.

THE FUTURE: A catcher with tools to impact the game on both sides of the ball, Harvey is an intriguing addition to the Padres' organization. As the calendar flips to 2026, he is on track to spend most of the season with Low-A Lake Elsinore. However, an in-season promotion to High-A Fort Wayne is within the realm of possibility.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Lake Elsinore (CAL)	A	.174	7	23	3	4	0	0	0	1	7	12	0	.367	.174

8 RYAN **WIDEMAN** OF

HIT: 40. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 35.

Born: November 4, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 204.
Drafted: Western Kentucky, 2025 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Matt Maloney.

TRACK RECORD: Following a stellar two-year stint at Georgia Highlands JC, Wideman didn't miss a beat in his lone season at Western Kentucky in 2025. Across 60 games, he hit .398/.466/.652 with 10 home runs and 45 stolen bases en route to winning both player and newcomer of the year honors for Conference USA. The Padres drafted Wideman in the third round and signed him for an under-slot $650,000. Wideman spent 26 games with Low-A Lake Elsinore.

SCOUTING REPORT: The 6-foot-5, 204-pound Wideman is a tool shed with a wide variety of gifts. He has a high-waisted and athletic frame with strength throughout. Wideman has a bit of a unique look in the batter's box. He deploys a high leg lift and a small stride. He has plenty of bat speed and has flashed particular impact to his pull side. While Wideman's raw power is above-average, he has hit more doubles than home runs to this point. He is a comfortably plus runner—as well as an effective basestealer—and he is a nuisance on the basepaths for opposing batteries. Wideman can go get it in center field and routinely flashes plenty of range in all directions with an above-average arm. The biggest question mark with Wideman is undoubtedly his hit tool. He's aggressive by nature and a bit of a free-swinger. Last spring he chased at a 40% clip, and in a brief pro debut he chased at a 35% rate. Picking up spin out of the pitcher's hand has been a particular bugaboo, and Wideman will need to iron out his pitch recognition skills as he develops.

THE FUTURE: Wideman's tools and upside make him an exciting prospect, though whether he's able to make enough contact is yet to be seen. Wideman will likely begin his 2026 campaign back with Lake Elsinore before earning a promotion to High-A Fort Wayne.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	Lake Elsinore (CAL)	A	.229	26	96	13	22	2	1	0	12	12	32	11	.330	.271

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Nick Pivetta	36
No. 2 Starter	Kruz Schoolcraft	22
No. 3 Starter	Miguel Mendez	26
No. 4 Starter	Kash Mayfield	24
No. 5 Starter	Humberto Cruz	22
Closer	Mason Miller	30

Catcher	Ethan Salas	22
First Base	Jake Cronenworth	35
Second Base	Xander Bogaerts	36
Third Base	Manny Machado	36
Shortstop	Jorge Quintana	22
Left Field	Ryan Wideman	25
Center Field	Jackson Merrill	25
Right Field	**Fernando Tatis Jr.**	30
Designated Hitter	Kale Fountain	23

9 BRADGLEY **RODRIGUEZ** RHP

FB: 55. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 65. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 35.

Born: November 16, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 160.
Signed: Venezuela, 2021. **Signed by:** Luis Prieto.

TRACK RECORD: The Padres signed Rodriguez out of Venezuela in 2021 for $700,000, but elbow issues wiped out his ensuing two seasons. He's been able to make up for lost time in 2024 and 2025, ascending from Low-A Lake Elsinore to the major leagues. In his debut season, Rodriguez allowed one run across 7.2 innings and collected nine strikeouts.

SCOUTING REPORT: Rodriguez is an undersized righthander with some length and physicality in his lower half. He works exclusively out of the stretch and features an explosive operation in which he attacks hitters out of a high-three quarters slot. Rodriguez has a deep, stabbing arm stroke, and his delivery is typical for a reliever. He deploys two different fastballs—a four-seam and a sinker—that both sit in the upper 90s and have been up to 100 mph. The former plays well up in the zone thanks to its riding life and Rodriguez's relatively flat vertical approach angle. His sinker is bowling ball-esque with power sink. At times it will get in on the hands of righthanded hitters. Rodriguez's upper-80s-to-low-90s changeup is at least a plus pitch and generated a combined 45% miss rate in 2025. He's comfortable using it against both righthanded and lefthanded hitters, and it consistently flashes big-time fade to his arm side. Rodriguez completes his arsenal with a cut-slider hybrid that's short in shape, but at times will show late and effective gloveside life.

THE FUTURE: A reliever through and through, Rodriguez has a chance to break camp and open the 2026 season on the major league roster. If he is unable to do so, expect him to start the season at Triple-A with the chance to earn a callup to San Diego in relatively short order.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	AA,AAA	6	0	3.19	33	0	37	24	1	16	38	0.2	10.7	25.3	1.09
2025	21	San Diego (NL)	MLB	1	0	1.17	7	0	8	4	0	3	9	0.0	9.7	29.0	0.91

10 KALE **FOUNTAIN** 1B/3B

HIT: 30. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 45. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 30.

Born: August 14, 2005. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 225.
Drafted: HS—Firth, NE, 2024 (5th round). **Signed by:** Troy Hoerner.

TRACK RECORD: During a decorated career at Norris High, Fountain shattered multiple Nebraska state records. His 31 home runs, 154 RBIs and 84 stolen bases are all state records, and he set the home run record while still a junior. Fountain parlayed his performance into an eventual fifth-round selection by the Padres in 2024 and signed an over-slot deal worth $1.7 million. He had Tommy John surgery in October 2024, but he still made his professional debut in 2025, appearing in 65 games between the Arizona Complex League and Low-A Lake Elsinore.

SCOUTING REPORT: At 6-foot-5 and 225 pounds, Fountain has an extra-large frame with strength and physicality throughout. A power-oriented hitter, he has thunderous bat speed and comfortably plus raw power that the Padres hope he will be able to tap into in games on a consistent basis. For Fountain to be able to tap into said power, he will need to shore up his hit tool and pitch recognition skills. In his brief 65-game debut, secondary pitch types vexed the physical corner infielder. He posted contact rates of 57% and 71% against sliders and changeups, respectively. One silver lining is that Fountain's swing decisions were solid and he posted a respectable walk rate of 12.5%. Fountain spent the vast majority of his 2025 campaign at first base, but given that he'll be fully recovered from his elbow surgery by the time spring training rolls around in 2026, he is also expected to get reps at third base—where he has an above-average arm—and in left field.

THE FUTURE: Much of Fountain's upside is contingent on how much he is able to hit. He has the most impressive raw power of any Padres minor leaguer, though that doesn't mean much if he's unable to get to it consistently.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.226	65	230	40	52	8	1	3	34	35	65	21	.346	.309

TIM WARNER/GETTY IMAGES (TATIS JR.), LARRY GOREN/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (HARVEY)

TOP 10 GIANTS

by JOSH NORRIS

1 BRYCE ELDRIDGE 1B

HIT: 40. **POW:** 70. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 40. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 55.

Born: October 20, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-7. **WT:** 240.
Drafted: HS—Vienna, VA, 2023 (1st round).
Signed by: John DiCarlo.

TRACK RECORD: When he was a two-way player in high school, Eldridge's future appeared to be on the mound. Given that he stands 6-foot-7 and threw 96 mph, that seemed reasonable. Then he started crushing baseballs, and his path to the big leagues shifted to the batter's box. He swatted eight home runs for USA Baseball's 18U National Team, and the Giants drafted him in the first round in 2023. He signed for $3,997,500. In his first full season, Eldridge was electric. The first baseman rocketed from Low-A to Triple-A, hitting 23 home runs along the way. His 2025 season was delayed by a left wrist injury, but he recovered enough to hit 25 home runs between Double-A and Triple-A. He made his big league debut on Sept. 15 and notched a three-run double off Tyler Glasnow for his first MLB hit. Eldridge had surgery in October to remove a bone spur from his left wrist. He's expected to be ready for spring training.

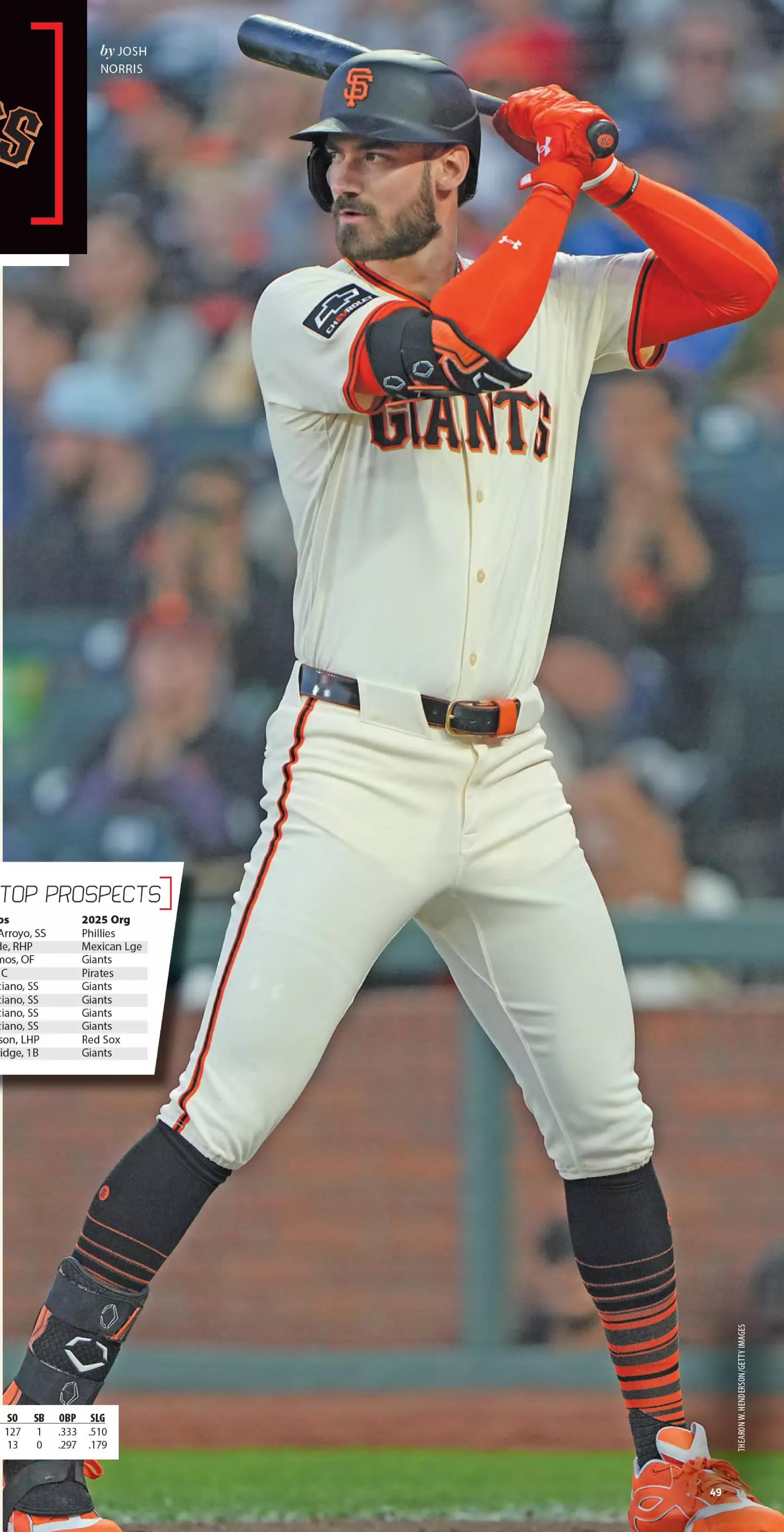
SCOUTING REPORT: Eldridge's calling card is his power, which showed up in spades in the minor leagues. His 90th percentile exit velocity of 107.7 mph was fourth-highest in the system among players with 300 or more plate appearances. He's an equal-opportunity slugger, too, with true pole-to-pole power against a variety of pitch types. Clearly, Eldridge's thump will drive his profile. Now, the question is: How complete of a hitter will he be? His strikeout-to-walk ratio was roughly 3-to-1 in the minor leagues, and he punched out 13 times in 37 big league plate appearances. His overall miss rate of 33.7% was a bit higher than is ideal, and his in-zone (22.5%) and chase (27.3%) rates were a touch on the high side as well. Though he didn't show much of a platoon split, Eldridge had a weakness against left-on-left spin. He had a miss rate of 46% against same-side sliders, not including a 73% mark against sweepers from southpaws. Eldridge's youth—he played the entire season as a 20-year-old—leads evaluators to believe he'll close those holes as he matures and gets more experience against the wiliest of pitchers. Eldridge's explosive bat speed and relatively short swing for someone his size also point to a hitter who should get better as he ages, though he will likely always be a power-over-hit player. Defensively, he still needs plenty of work and might never be better than fringy at first base. Specifically, he has an above-average arm, but his accuracy can be spotty. He's not the rangiest defender at the position, either. Eldridge is a well below-average runner.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Christian Arroyo, SS	Phillies
2017	Tyler Beede, RHP	Mexican Lge
2018	Heliot Ramos, OF	Giants
2019	Joey Bart, C	Pirates
2020	Marco Luciano, SS	Giants
2021	Marco Luciano, SS	Giants
2022	Marco Luciano, SS	Giants
2023	Marco Luciano, SS	Giants
2024	Kyle Harrison, LHP	Red Sox
2025	Bryce Eldridge, 1B	Giants

THE FUTURE: Eldridge will have a chance to win the first base job out of camp, but with Rafael Devers in tow for the foreseeable future, there's no guarantee that Eldridge will make the Opening Day roster. Given that he'll be 21 years old for the entire 2026 season and that he's played the equivalent of less than two full seasons in the minor leagues, there's plenty of time for more seasoning. When he's ready, he has the skills to be a cornerstone player.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	20	Minors (3 teams)	Rk,AA,AAA	.260	102	384	46	100	21	0	25	84	42	127	1	.333	.510
2025	20	San Francisco (NL)	MLB	.107	10	28	1	3	2	0	0	4	7	13	0	.297	.179



THEARON W. HENDERSON/GETTY IMAGES

2 JOSUAR **GONZALEZ** SS

HIT: 50. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 70. **FLD:** 70. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 65. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 50.

Born: October 16, 2007. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 167.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2025. **Signed by:** Jonathan Bautista.

TRACK RECORD: Gonzalez was one of the most talented players available in the 2025 international class, and the Giants inked him for $2,697,500 on Jan. 15. Immediately, he set to work proving that the investment was wise. His combination of offensive and defensive skills made him an easy choice for the top prospect in the Dominican Summer League, and he continued wowing evaluators after he moved stateside for instructional league.

SCOUTING REPORT: Gonzalez's tool set is led by sublime defense, which grades as an easy 70 on the 20-80 scouting scale. He can make any play required by a big league shortstop thanks to standout range, strong instincts, fluid actions and an arm that easily grades as plus. Gonzalez's offensive numbers don't jump off the page in the way that other DSL wunderkinds' have in years past, but a look under the hood shows a player with an elite sense of the strike zone and more thump than would be expected from a player his size. The switch-hitting Gonzalez shows more power from the left side and a handsier, more contact-oriented swing from the right. His tools give him a tantalizing base and helped him post one of the best seasons from a 17-year-old in the DSL. He's far from a finished product, however. In the coming years, he'll have to prove that his approach holds up against more advanced arms, and he'll need to add strength to his frame in order to withstand the rigors of a full minor league season.

THE FUTURE: After a strong first pro season, Gonzalez is likely to see time in full-season ball in 2026. Whether he jumps there during or after the Arizona Complex League season remains to be seen, but he should reach Low-A at some point. He has a future as a lockdown shortstop who hits toward the top of the lineup and creates havoc on the bases.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	17	DSL Giants	Rk	.288	52	191	52	55	10	5	4	24	37	36	33	.404	.455

3 BO **DAVIDSON** OF

HIT: 45. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: July 5, 2002. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 205.
Signed: Caldwell Tech (NC) JC, 2023 (UDFA). **Signed by:** DJ Jauss/Paul Faulk.

TRACK RECORD: Davidson's ascent into the highest realm of the Giants' system stands as a testament to the power of dogged scouting. The toolsy outfielder played at two North Carolina junior colleges before turning evaluators' heads in the summer Coastal Plain League. After flashes of potential over his first two pro seasons, Davidson broke out with a strong turn at High-A Eugene in 2025 that earned him his first upper-level look and a spot on the Top 100 Prospects.

SCOUTING REPORT: Davidson is as tooled-up as they come in the Giants' system, but there's some polish to his game, too. He's a physical player with gifts on both sides of the ball, including power enough to produce 18 home runs and respective 90th percentile and maximum exit velocities of 105.5 and 112.5 mph. He showed improved pitch recognition at High-A, and his strikeout rate jumped just 2 percentage points after moving to Double-A Richmond. He'll likely settle in as a fringe-average hitter with above-average bat speed and plus power, especially after he vastly improved his flyball rate after he joined the Eastern League. His miss rates were roughly average across the board. Davidson has a chance to stick in center field thanks to speed that gets to plus underway and an above-average arm that would be a weapon if he has to move to a corner. Scouts are split on whether he can stick up the middle, and a great deal of that outcome is dependent on how physical he gets as he continues to mature and add strength. If he moves to left or right field, Davidson should be an above-average defender.

THE FUTURE: Davidson will likely return to Double-A to begin 2026 and should reach Triple-A by season's end. If he keeps adding polish to his tool set, he has a chance to impact the game with his power, speed and defense. If he can stick in center field, his value will be significantly amplified.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.281	114	449	76	126	16	7	18	70	68	119	19	.376	.468

4 JHONNY **LEVEL** SS

HIT: 55. **POW:** 55. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: March 29, 2007. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 5-10. **WT:** 154.
Signed: Venezuela, 2024. **Signed by:** Juan Marquez.

TRACK RECORD: After signing for $997,500 in 2024 as one of the centerpieces of the Giants' signing class, Level has been outstanding over his first two pro seasons. He was one of the best prospects in the Dominican Summer League during his debut, then ratcheted his game up a couple of notches in 2025 to rank No. 1 in the Arizona Complex League, where his nine home runs and 108 total bases each ranked second. Level finished the year with 31 games at Low-A San Jose.

SCOUTING REPORT: In his first stateside test, Level proved to be a hitting machine. He torched the competition in the ACL thanks to a well-rounded offensive game that includes hitting ability from both sides of the plate and more power than would be expected from a smaller player. Level's frame gives him a bit of a leg up in the box thanks to shorter arms that provide fewer holes for pitchers to attack. His overall and in-zone miss rates are stellar, and he gets the ball in the air often enough to allow his above-average raw juice to translate into doubles and home runs. Some scouts saw a bit of a hole against velocity up in the strike zone. In the field, Level has the above-average range to both sides, soft hands and plus arm to stick at shortstop. His arm strength can sometimes be muted by a longer throwing stroke. If he sticks at shortstop, he should be an average defender. If he moves to second base, he could be above-average and will have plenty of offensive value to profile at the position.

THE FUTURE: The bulk of the Giants' most prized prospects are clustered at the lowest affiliates, and Level is one of the most talented of the bunch. He and Josuar Gonzalez could form key pieces of the team's core, buttressing a young, talented group that could also feature fellow top prospect Bo Davidson in center field.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.269	89	346	80	93	12	5	12	50	50	70	21	.360	.436

Josuar Gonzalez

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter for Average	Carlos Gutierrez
Best Power Hitter	Bryce Eldridge
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Nate Furman
Fastest Baserunner	Josuar Gonzalez
Best Athlete	Dakota Jordan

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Keyner Martinez
Best Curveball	Trent Harris
Best Slider	Keyner Martinez
Best Changeup	Carson Whisenhunt
Best Control	Alberto Laroche

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Adrian Sugastey
Best Defensive Infielder	Josuar Gonzalez
Best Infield Arm	Jhonny Level
Best Defensive Outfielder	Jonah Cox
Best Outfield Arm	Jose Ortiz

5 JACOB **BRESNAHAN** LHP

FB: 60. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: June 27, 2005. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 195.
Drafted: HS—Sumner, WA, 2023 (13th round). **Signed by:** Conor Glassey (Guardians).

TRACK RECORD: After a strong senior season at high school in Washington—and status as one of the younger players in the 2023 draft class—Bresnahan intrigued the Guardians enough to draft him in the 13th round and sign him for $375,000. Cleveland dealt Bresnahan to the Giants in 2024 for Alex Cobb. He broke out in 2025 by striking out 124 hitters in 93 innings for Low-A San Jose, a feat that earned him pitcher of the year honors in the California League.

SCOUTING REPORT: Bresnahan's combination of physicality, projection and stuff makes him the top arm in San Francisco's system. The lefty works with three pitches: a low-90s fastball with an average of more than 20 inches of induced vertical break, a low-80s slider and a mid-80s changeup. The fastball is the gem of Bresnahan's arsenal, and its velocity—it peaked at 96 mph—combined with its movement profile makes it an easy plus pitch. His changeup is another dynamite offering, but it's actually two pitches in one. Both versions are kick changeups, but by varying the degree to which he kicks out his finger, Bresnahan can alternate between a pitch he can use for called strikes and another that dives out of the zone and induces silly swings. He rounds out his mix with a sharp-breaking slider that might need to tighten up a little bit but has average potential. He's thrown strikes at a clip of 64% in each of the last two seasons and should have above-average control in the big leagues despite a slight wrist wrap in the back of his delivery. The Giants would like Bresnahan to learn how to pitch backward and not lean on his fastball quite as much as he moves up the ladder.

THE FUTURE: Bresnahan will move to High-A Eugene in 2026 and has a chance to be a midrotation starter if he can bring his slider ahead just a touch.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	20	San Jose (CAL)	A	9	3	2.61	22	22	93	67	2	43	124	0.2	11.3	32.5	1.18

6 KEYNER **MARTINEZ** RHP

FB: 60. **SW:** 60. **CH:** 45. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 16, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 165.
Signed: Venezuela, 2023. **Signed by:** Edgar Fernandez/Ciro Villalobos/Joe Salermo.

TRACK RECORD: Martinez signed out of Venezuela as an 18-year-old in July 2023 and didn't make his pro debut until the following year in the Arizona Complex League. In his first turn in the desert, Martinez looked like a pitcher with little more than a live arm. A year later, his stuff ticked up, his arsenal widened and he surged up the system's pitching hierarchy. After a dominant run in the ACL, Martinez finished the year in Low-A, where he helped San Jose claim the California League crown.

SCOUTING REPORT: At the very least, Martinez will likely be able to bully hitters with his fastball and slider. The former sits in the mid 90s and peaked at 98 with solid carrying life. He pounded the zone with the pitch, collecting strikes at a 70% clip and misses at a rate of 25.5%. Martinez backs it with a sweeping slider that went through a dramatic transformation from the version he used in 2024. The Giants suggested a grip switch during a bullpen session, and Martinez took to the change immediately. Now, the breaking ball is an out pitch and an easy plus offering. He introduced his changeup in the middle of the 2025 season and scouts universally said that he showed improved feel for the pitch as the year went along. The righthander's strike-throwing dipped a bit after moving to Low-A, so he'll have to work a bit to improve his control against more advanced hitters. Martinez's physicality should help him hold up to a starter's workload, though some scouts believe an upright finish and a lack of extension in his delivery could lead him to the bullpen.

THE FUTURE: Martinez should return to Low-A in 2026. If he can hold up to a longer workload and bring his changeup forward a couple of ticks, he has a ceiling of a midrotation starter.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	20	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	5	2	2.21	21	11	69	63	3	21	97	0.4	7.4	34.2	1.21

7 DAKOTA **JORDAN** OF

HIT: 40. **POW:** 60. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 45.

Born: May 9, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 220.
Drafted: Mississippi State, 2024 (4th round). **Signed by:** Jeff Wood.

TRACK RECORD: The signings of free agents Blake Snell and Matt Chapman cost the Giants their second- and third-round picks in 2024. After selecting James Tibbs III in the first round, they took Jordan—a Mississippi State product with Southeastern Conference pedigree and plenty of upside—in the fourth round. In his first full year in 2025, Jordan showed impact potential—and plenty of warts—while helping Low-A San Jose win the California League championship. He missed the last few weeks of the season with a strained oblique.

SCOUTING REPORT: Despite a hyper-aggressive approach that saw him swing more than half the time, Jordan makes a decent amount of contact and struck out at a clip of just 22.6% in a full season at Low-A. When lumber meets leather, the results are usually loud. His 90th percentile exit velocity of 108.4 mph was the highest in the Giants' system, and he racked up 35 extra-base hits in 88 games. Jordan is unlikely to ever be more than a below-average pure hitter, but his brute strength and improved approach and mechanics should allow him to get to a great deal of his raw juice. Defensively, Jordan has a chance to stick in center field, but he'll have to work to make that outcome a reality. His above-average speed allows him to get most flies hit his way, and his experience as a wide receiver and defensive back in high school gives him plenty of experience when it comes to tracking balls in flight. His above-average arm strength would be an asset in right or left field if he had to move to a corner.

THE FUTURE: After a shortened but standout season in Low-A, Jordan's next stop is High-A Eugene. If he can make incremental improvements to his approach without sacrificing his impact potential, he has a chance to be a slugger who hits in the lower third of a lineup.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	San Jose (CAL)	A	.311	88	370	71	115	15	6	14	82	37	95	27	.377	.497

8 GAVIN **KILEN** SS

HIT: 55. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 45. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 45. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: March 28, 2004. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 187.
Drafted: Tennessee, 2025 (1st round). **Signed by:** Nick Long.

TRACK RECORD: Kilen was drafted by the Red Sox in the 13th round in 2022 but opted to head to school at Louisville. He stayed there for two seasons before transferring to Tennessee for his draft season in 2025. After a successful year with the Volunteers, Kilen was drafted by the Giants at No. 13 overall and signed for $5,247,500. He played 10 games with Low-A San Jose before a hip bruise landed him on the shelf for the remainder of the year. After the season, San Francisco hired Tennessee head coach Tony Vitello to replace Bob Melvin as manager. Giants draft pick Maui Ahuna and trade acquisitions Drew Gilbert and Blade Tidwell also are former Vols.

SCOUTING REPORT: Kilen's scouting report is littered with solid but not spectacular tools, and he makes his money by putting the bat on the ball with regularity. The lefty swinger rarely missed a pitch in the zone in college, and the same held true during his small professional sample. His chase rate with San Jose was higher than he'd shown during his amateur career. After hitting just nine home runs over two seasons with Louisville—including zero in 46 games as a freshman—Kilen slammed 15 in his lone year in Knoxville thanks to improvements in his approach and swing decisions. Scouts believe he'll likely settle in with fringe-average power as a pro. Kilen is a solid defender at shortstop but limited range and fringy arm strength might push him to second base as he moves up the ladder. That's especially true if he ever shares a roster with a sublime gloveman like Josuar Gonzalez at some point in his career.

THE FUTURE: After an offseason to heal from hamstring and hip injuries, Kilen will look to begin his first full season with a clean bill of health. He has a chance to be an offensive-minded second baseman with contact and on-base skills. His college pedigree could lead to a jump to High-A Eugene.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	San Jose (CAL)	A	.205	10	39	5	8	1	1	0	5	3	5	0	.279	.282

PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	Logan Webb	33
No. 2 Starter	Landen Roupp	30
No. 3 Starter	Jacob Bresnahan	24
No. 4 Starter	Keyner Martinez	24
No. 5 Starter	Carson Whisenhunt	28
Closer	Randy Rodriguez	29

Catcher	Patrick Bailey	28
First Base	Bryce Eldridge	24
Second Base	Willy Adames	33
Third Base	Matt Chapman	36
Shortstop	Josuar Gonzalez	21
Left Field	Drew Gilbert	28
Center Field	Jung Hoo Lee	30
Right Field	**Heliot Ramos**	30
Designated Hitter	Rafael Devers	32

9 TREVOR **COHEN** OF

HIT: 55. **POW:** 40. **RUN:** 55. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 60. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: October 29, 2003. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 195.
Drafted: Rutgers, 2025 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Carmen Carcone.

TRACK RECORD: After the Giants surrendered their 2025 second-round pick for signing free agent Willy Adames, they spent their third-round pick on Cohen, an outfielder from Rutgers with a variety of gifts on both sides of the ball. In his draft year with the Scarlet Knights, Cohen hit .387/.460/.523 with 24 doubles, two home runs, 19 stolen bases and just 15 strikeouts in 273 plate appearances. He finished his college career with more walks (80) than strikeouts (62) and did the same over 28 games with Low-A San Jose.

SCOUTING REPORT: With their first two picks in the 2025 draft, the Giants emphasized contact in a major way with first-round pick Gavin Kilen and Cohen, who rarely missed in college or as a pro. In fact, Cohen's zone-miss rate with San Jose was 9.2%. He hits the ball plenty hard but needs to get the ball off the ground to make the most of his tools. If he can do that, he projects for 40-grade power on the 20-80 scouting scale. Cohen filled the void created in center field in San Jose when Dakota Jordan hit the injured list. He manned the position ably, and evaluators believe he has the speed and instincts to stick there. In his pro sample, he showed above-average speed and excellent jumps. He has the chops to man all three outfield spots thanks to plus arm strength, but he'd need to tap into every bit of his power potential in order to profile in either corner. Cohen is an above-average runner with outstanding instincts that allowed him to swipe 39 bases in 45 chances in college and eight more in 10 tries as a pro.

THE FUTURE: Cohen's time at Rutgers should give him the pedigree to matriculate to High-A Eugene, where he'll likely split center field with Dakota Jordan in 2026. His bat-to-ball skills and defense give him a solid floor, but a step or two forward in the power department could help him break out.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	21	San Jose (CAL)	A	.327	28	107	23	35	3	1	1	15	20	15	8	.438	.402

10 CARSON **WHISENHUNT** LHP

FB: 55. **CB:** 40. **SL:** 45. **CH:** 70. **CTL:** 55. **BA Grade:** 45. **Risk:** Mild. **Adj:** 40.

Born: October 10, 2000. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 214.
Drafted: East Carolina, 2022 (2nd round). **Signed by:** DJ Jauss.

TRACK RECORD: Even after Whisenhunt was suspended for his draft year at East Carolina, the Giants were undeterred and leaned on their history with him and his work in the Cape Cod League before deciding to select him in the second round in 2022. He reached Triple-A Sacramento in 2024 and returned there in 2025. Whisenhunt showed enough improvement to earn his first big league callup and five starts with San Francisco. Whisenhunt also dealt with a minor shoulder impingement during the season.

SCOUTING REPORT: As ever, Whisenhunt's future is dependent on the state of his breaking ball. Currently, he has both a slider and a curveball, though neither is a standout offering. The former pitch is most effective in the 83-86 mph range with gyro shape, while the latter is best deployed as a strike-stealer early in counts. If either of those offerings took a step forward, Whisenhunt's chances to remain in the rotation would jump in kind. His fastball sits around 92 mph and peaks at 95, but the Giants would like to see him hold the pitch in the higher reaches of that velo band deeper into games. The gem of Whisenhunt's arsenal is his changeup, which sits in the low 80s and can be thrown for called strikes or whiffs in equal measure. In the minor leagues, his changeup was a strike more than 70% of the time and garnered miss and chase rates of 35.3% and 43.5%, respectively.

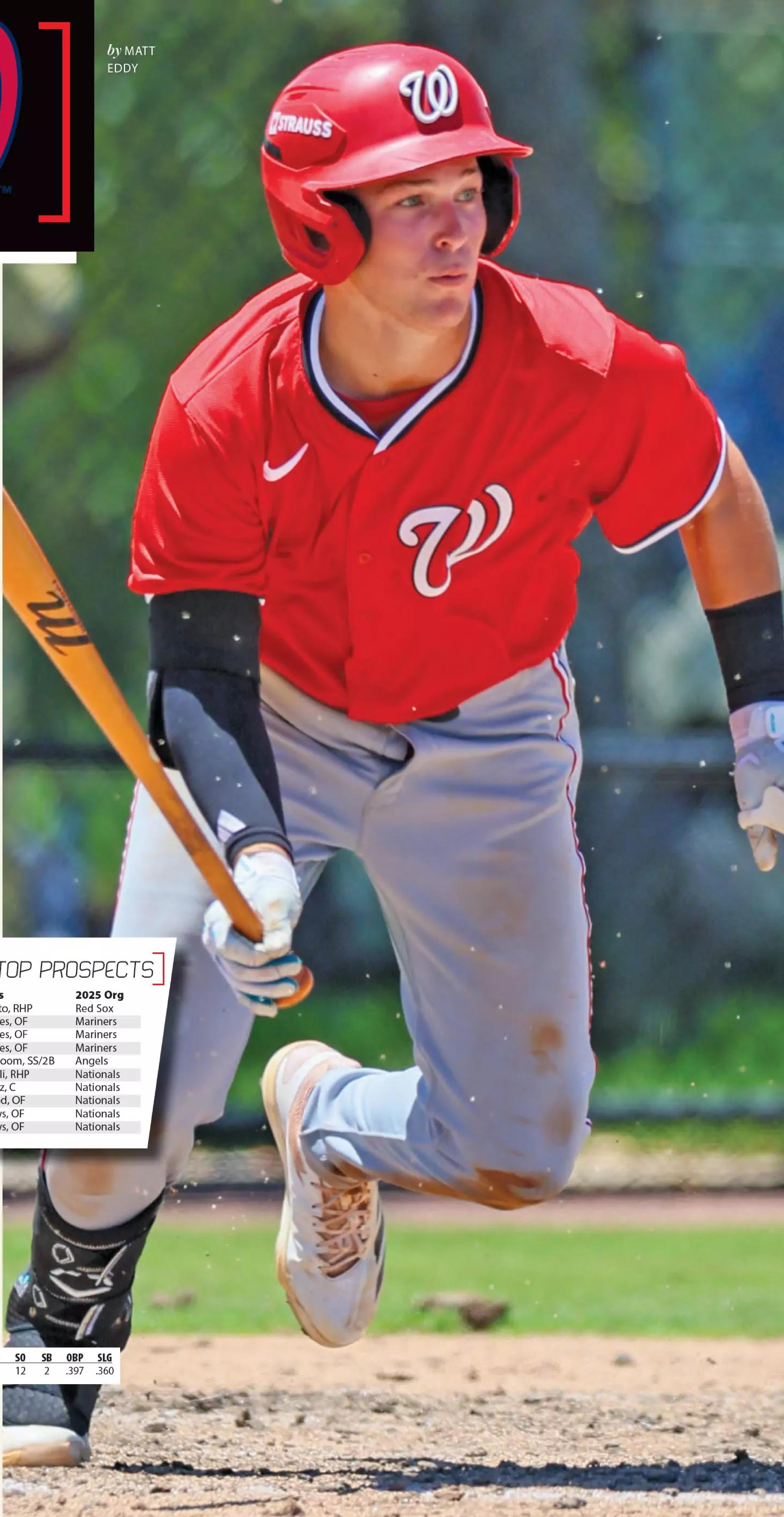
THE FUTURE: With his MLB debut under his belt, Whisenhunt will get a crack at joining San Francisco's rotation on Opening Day. To do so, he'll need to find a consistent, useful breaking ball and maintain his best stuff deeper into outings.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	24	Sacramento (PCL)	AAA	9	5	4.43	21	21	108	112	13	35	95	1.1	7.7	20.9	1.37
2025	24	San Francisco (NL)	MLB	2	1	5.01	5	5	23	22	6	12	16	2.3	11.8	15.7	1.46

BILL MITCHELL (GONZALEZ), EAKIN HOWARD/GETTY IMAGES (RAMOS)

TOP 10

by MATT EDDY



1 ELI WILLITS SS

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 55. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 50.

Born: December 9, 2007. **B-T:** B-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 180.
Drafted: HS—Fort Cobb, OK, 2025 (1st round).
Signed by: Jacorey Boudreaux.

TRACK RECORD: Willits was originally slated to graduate from Fort-Cobb Broxton High in 2026, but the Oklahoma prep reclassified to become draft eligible in 2025. Doing so made him one of the youngest players available in his draft class, and when the Nationals selected the shortstop first overall, he became the youngest player ever drafted 1-1 based on baseball age. Willits was 17 years, six months and 21 days old on June 30 of his draft year, younger even than the youngest 17-year-old top overall picks such as Ken Griffey Jr., Bryce Harper and Carlos Correa. Willits is the son of former big leaguer Reggie Willits, a switch-hitting outfielder who played six seasons for the Angels. These days, Reggie serves as associate head coach at Oklahoma, where his oldest son Jaxon is the Sooners' shortstop. Eli had committed to Oklahoma before he signed for $8.2 million, which was nearly $2.876 million under slot for the No. 1 pick. Willits got the cachet associated with being drafted first overall; Washington freed up bonus pool money to apply toward signing high schoolers Landon Harmon, Miguel Sime Jr. and Coy James in the third, fourth and fifth rounds. Willits signed on July 19 and saw action in 15 games for Low-A Fredericksburg. He hit .300, drew seven walks and stole two bases while handling shortstop in 14 of his appearances.

SCOUTING REPORT: Willits is a 6-foot-1, 180-pound switch-hitter with a chance to make an impact in every facet of the game with his hitting, running and fielding ability at shortstop. The hallmarks of his offensive game are his bat-to-ball skills—he struck out just a handful of times as a high school senior—and swing decisions that fuel an above-average hit tool. Willits showed sharp zone-contact skills in his pro debut while recognizing pitches and staying in his strike zone with a low chase rate. He hits all different pitch types, while his balanced, line-drive stroke from both sides of the plate allows him to use all fields. If Willits adds good weight to his frame and develops his lower half, he should improve his below-average exit velocities and find at least average power as he learns to hunt his pitch to inflict damage. He is a plus runner who not only poses a basestealing threat but runs the bases efficiently. Willits' body control, range and above-average arm stand out in the field, where he is a no-doubt shortstop. He appears to have the "it" factor and the poise necessary to draw in teammates and emerge as a team leader.

LAST 10 TOP PROSPECTS

Year	Player, Pos	2025 Org
2016	Lucas Giolito, RHP	Red Sox
2017	Victor Robles, OF	Mariners
2018	Victor Robles, OF	Mariners
2019	Victor Robles, OF	Mariners
2020	Carter Kieboom, SS/2B	Angels
2021	Cade Cavalli, RHP	Nationals
2022	Keibert Ruiz, C	Nationals
2023	James Wood, OF	Nationals
2024	Dylan Crews, OF	Nationals
2025	Dylan Crews, OF	Nationals

THE FUTURE: Willits' well-rounded profile makes him the Nationals' likely shortstop of the future. That future could arrive as early as at some point during the 2028 season, following two-plus solid development years in the minor leagues. Willits will be just 20 years old in 2028, which, barring an extension, will also be the final season of club control for shortstop CJ Abrams in Washington.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	17	Fredericksburg (CAR)	A	.300	15	50	7	15	1	1	0	5	7	12	2	.397	.360

2 JARLIN SUSANA RHP

FB: 70. **CB:** 60. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 45. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 45.

Born: March 23, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-7. **WT:** 283.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2022. **Signed by:** Trevor Schumm/Chris Kemp (Padres).

TRACK RECORD: The Nationals' Juan Soto trade with the Padres is the gift that keeps giving. CJ Abrams, MacKenzie Gore and James Wood are already established in Washington. Susana is next. He ended 2024 on a roll, with a 2.79 ERA and 123 strikeouts in his final 77.1 innings, mostly for High-A Wilmington. Susana opened 2025 at Double-A Harrisburg but never really got going before he lost nearly three months with a sprained elbow. He looked electric upon his return in July but then injured his right lat and had season-ending surgery in September.

SCOUTING REPORT: Few pitchers can match the electricity of Susana's repertoire. He pitches at 99-100 mph with his four seam fastball and tops out near 104. The pitch is delivered at a lower release height, which, coupled with its incredible velocity, compensates for ordinary shape. Susana's 99 mph two-seamer tops at 102 and has plus horizontal life. It helps him change batters' eye levels and elicit ground balls. His mid-80s slider has become a devastating pitch as he has harnessed command of it. He manipulates the pitch to produce curveball action at lower speeds and power slider movement up to 91 mph at the other extreme. Susana found a power changeup grip that works in 2025. The pitch has splinker-like action with sink and diving action at 93-94 mph and up to near 97. Susana took major strides with his mental preparation and physical conditioning, and he now throws more quality strikes than ever. He flies open at times and misses east and west, so true command could be elusive.

THE FUTURE: The Nationals' media guide lists Susana at 6-foot-7, 283 pounds, calling to mind a pair of jumbo-sized all-stars: starter Michael Piñeda and closer Felix Bautista. The Nationals will give Susana every chance to start, where his pitch quality could make him a No. 2 or 3 starter.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	1	4	3.51	14	14	56	40	3	34	95	0.5	13.9	38.9	1.31

3 TRAVIS SYKORA RHP

FB: 65. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 60. **Risk:** Extreme. **Adj:** 45.

Born: April 28, 2004. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-6. **WT:** 224.
Drafted: HS—Round Rock, TX, 2023 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Kevin Ham.

TRACK RECORD: Sykora had top-two rounds talent in the 2023 draft coming out of Round Rock High in Texas. When he slipped to the Nationals in round three—but still signed for $2.6 million, or late first-round money—he used the perceived slight as motivation. Sykora unleashed his fury on Carolina League batters in 2024, leading all Low-A pitchers with 129 strikeouts in 85 innings for league-champion Fredericksburg. He had surgery on the labrum in his hip in the offseason and got a late start in 2025. After Sykora missed time with a triceps injury in July while at Double-A Harrisburg, it was later revealed he had a UCL tear in his elbow. Sykora had Tommy John surgery in August.

SCOUTING REPORT: Sykora idolizes Texas pitching icon Nolan Ryan, and like The Ryan Express, he uses a power approach consisting mostly of a high-octane fastball and a devastating breaking pitch. Sykora pitches at 95-96 mph with his four-seam fastball and tops out at 99. He compensates for average fastball shape with strong extension and pure velocity. The pitch should continue to play as Sykora recovers from TJ. He improved the horizontal life on his low-80s slider, which gets up near 87 mph, and he threw the pitch for strikes at a high rate. He also threw it more than his fastball in 2025. Sykora's mid-80s splitter tumbles and fades to his arm side with consistently low spin rates. Sykora needs to tighten up his fastball command to different parts of the zone, but his wandering control is typical for a young power pitcher and will likely improve.

THE FUTURE: Given that he had TJ late in the 2025 season, Sykora probably won't be at full strength again until 2027, when he will still be just 23 years old. His stuff and control make him a candidate to be at least a No. 3 starter.

Year	Age	Club (League)	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	21	Minors (4 teams)	Rk,A,A+,AA	3	1	1.79	12	12	45	18	0	17	79	0.0	10.1	46.7	0.77

4 ALEX CLEMMEY LHP

FB: 60. **SL:** 60. **CH:** 55. **CTL:** 40. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: July 18, 2005. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-6. **WT:** 223.
Drafted: HS—Warwick, RI, 2023 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Kyle Bamberger (Guardians).

TRACK RECORD: The Guardians drafted Clemmey out of a Rhode Island high school in the second round in 2023, going nearly $1 million over slot to sign him for $2.3 million. Cleveland dealt him to the Nationals at the 2024 trade deadline as part of the package for Lane Thomas. Clemmey logged 116.2 innings in 2025 and led all Nationals minor league pitchers with 136 strikeouts but also 73 walks. He reached Double-A Harrisburg in mid August and saved his best work for last, when he posted a 2.04 ERA with 15 strikeouts and five walks in his final 17.2 innings.

SCOUTING REPORT: Clemmey's exciting stuff gives him the potential to become a top overall left-handed pitching prospect. It will come down to control, after he walked more than 14% of batters in 2025 to rank 11th worst among minor league pitchers with at least 100 innings. The 6-foot-6, long-limbed Clemmey has worked hard to streamline and repeat his mechanics, and his zone and strike rates on his fastball continue to creep upward. Opposing hitters have a hard time seeing his 93-94 mph four-seam fastball that reaches near 98. His arm slot and low release height make his heater difficult to square up for batters of both hands. He upped his sinker usage in 2025 to introduce a new wrinkle. Scouts would like to see him improve his fastball command to his glove side. Clemmey's mid-80s slider has plus potential but wasn't the same type of swing-and-miss weapon as it had been at Low-A in 2024. He threw many more changeups in 2025 to develop the high-80s pitch with above-average potential and good fade.

THE FUTURE: Clemmey exudes confidence and is a strong competitor with the athleticism to continue improving his command, which will determine his future role. He has the raw talent to become a No. 3 or 4 starter or potentially a high-leverage relief weapon.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	19	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	7	5	3.47	25	25	117	88	12	73	136	0.9	14.4	26.8	1.38

Jarlin Susana

BEST TOOLS

BATTING

Best Hitter	Phillip Glasser
Best Power Hitter	Andrew Pinckney
Best Strike-Zone Discipline	Eli Willits
Fastest Baserunner	Andrew Pinckney
Best Athlete	Elijah Green

PITCHING

Best Fastball	Jarlin Susana
Best Curveball	Jarlin Susana
Best Slider	Travis Sykora
Best Changeup	Sean Paul Liñan
Best Control	Josh Randall

FIELDING

Best Defensive Catcher	Kevin Bazzell
Best Defensive Infielder	Seaver King
Best Infield Arm	Jorgelys Mota
Best Defensive Outfielder	Cristhian Vaquero
Best Outfield Arm	Andrew Pinckney

5 SEAVER KING SS

HIT: 50. **POW:** 45. **RUN:** 70. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: April 25, 2003. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 216.
Drafted: Wake Forest, 2024 (1st round). **Signed by:** Bob Hamelin.

TRACK RECORD: King starred at Division II Wingate for two years before the Nationals drafted him 10th overall out of Wake Forest in 2024. In his pro debut, King helped lead Low-A Fredericksburg to the 2024 Carolina League title. He got off to a slow start with High-A Wilmington in 2025 but recovered to reach Double-A Harrisburg on June 3. King showed speed with 30 stolen bases in 125 total games but hit just .244/.294/.337 with six home runs and a 32-to-116 walk-to-strikeout ratio. His bat showed improved life in the Arizona Fall League after the season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Despite King's poor results in his first full season, scouts remain optimistic about his future because of his overall athleticism and twitch, enhanced by his enthusiasm. Early in the season, he appeared to be selling out for power by trying to pull the ball in the air, which spiked his strikeout rate. King reverted to a more dynamic hitting style by putting aggressive swings on pitches in all parts of the zone and hitting to all fields. He maintained strong exit velocities in 2025, even if hits weren't falling. King has strong bat-to-ball skills but needs to be more selective after an alarming chase rate of 37% in 2025. Some would like to see him move his contact point forward and with a swing coming from a lower slot to avoid excess groundball contact. If he can make things work, King can be a solid-average hitter with fringe power or better. He is a double-plus runner and efficient basestealer. King played more third base and center field at Wake Forest, but he settled in as a reliable everyday shortstop with an above-average arm. He has the athletic ability to adapt at the position and learn its nuances.

THE FUTURE: King has interesting tools and the athleticism to stay up the middle. He could be a few tweaks away from realizing his offensive potential and becoming a solid regular.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	22	Minors (2 teams)	A+,AA	.244	125	505	65	123	19	5	6	43	32	116	30	.294	.337

TOM DIPACE (WILLITS, SUSANA)

6 JAKE BENNETT LHP

FB: 55. **CB:** 45. **SL:** 50. **CH:** 60. **CTL:** 60. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** Average. **Adj:** 40.

Born: December 2, 2000. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-6. **WT:** 230.
Drafted: Oklahoma, 2022 (2nd round). **Signed by:** Cody Staab

TRACK RECORD: The Nationals drafted Bennett out of Oklahoma two years after they chose fellow Sooner Cade Cavalli in the first round. Bennett was a second-round pick in 2022 who got into 15 games in 2023 before missing most of July and September and having Tommy John surgery after the season. Bennett missed all of 2024 and returned to the mound in May 2025, ultimately making 19 appearances spanning 75.1 innings. Most of the innings were compiled for Double-A Harrisburg, and he added more in the Arizona Fall League after the season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Bennett is a 6-foot-6 lefthander with a wide assortment of pitches that play up because he gets down the mound with plus extension. While he doesn't blow batters away with raw velocity, Bennett is around the zone with six different pitches he can use to attack both sides of the plate. His four-seam fastball velocity was a tick higher in 2025 than it had been during his pro debut and averaged 92-93 mph and topped out near 96. His low three-quarters arm slot adds deception. He mixes in sinkers and occasional cutters to vary his fastball looks. Bennett's carrying secondary pitch is his mid-80s changeup that fades to his arm side and flummoxes minor league righthanded batters, who hit .210 with no home runs against him in 2025. He has good touch on an average low-to-mid-80s slider and high-70s curveball, both of which he can spot for strikes and elicit some chases. He throws breaking pitches only about 20% of the time, opting for more of a fastball/changeup attack. Bennett has plus control of his entire arsenal.

THE FUTURE: Given his wide repertoire of quality stuff, lefthandedness and feel for the strike zone, Bennett is a no-doubt starter with a good chance to settle in as a No. 4 type in a rotation.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	24	Minors (3 teams)	A,A+AA	2	5	2.27	19	18	75	62	3	19	64	0.4	6.4	21.5	1.08

7 LUKE DICKERSON SS

HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 60. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: August 9, 2005. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 203.
Drafted: HS—Rockaway, NJ, 2024 (2nd round). **Signed by:** John Malzone.

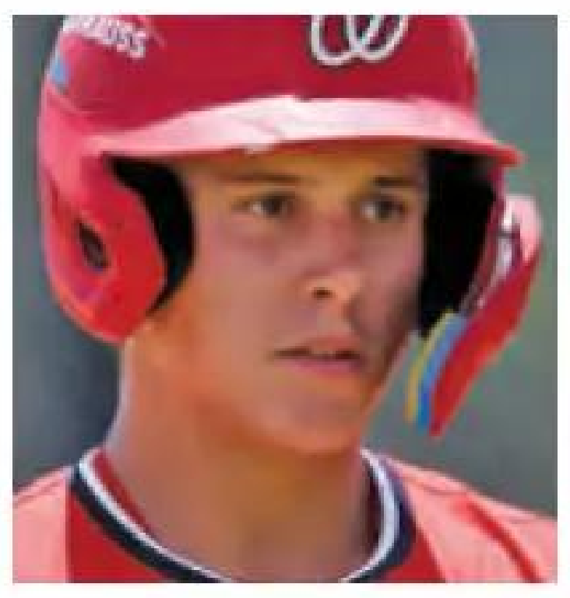
TRACK RECORD: The Nationals bet big on Dickerson in the second round of the 2024 draft, taking the New Jersey prep two-sport athlete—he also starred in hockey—in the second round and going way over slot to sign him for $3.8 million. That was nearly double the slot value for the 44th pick. Dickerson debuted in the Florida Complex League in 2025 but stayed just six games before the Nationals promoted him to Low-A Fredericksburg. He hit well for the first 20 games but his production tapered off and he finished his time in the Carolina League with a .204 average, 25% strikeout rate and five home runs in 83 games.

SCOUTING REPORT: The Nationals got an incomplete look at Dickerson in his first full season because he played through a wrist injury. Despite that mitigating factor, he grinded through a full season and showed plus bat speed and aptitude to drive the ball for power to his pull side on occasion. Like many young hitters, Dickerson will need to hone in on his strike zone and make more contact in the zone and avoid chasing out of it. He can get too passive at times. He hits the ball hard enough consistently enough to provide at least average power, while his quality swing decisions should make him an above-average hitter. Dickerson is a solidly-built, 5-foot-11 athlete who moves well on the infield and can convert routine plays at shortstop. He is a plus runner but doesn't have classic shortstop range, and his arm is borderline for the left side of the infield. Dickerson saw time at second base late in the season, and some scouts have floated center field as a possible destination.

THE FUTURE: Scouts who like Dickerson view him as a potential big league second baseman with solid all-around tools with enough hitting ability and power to play regularly.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	19	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.208	89	307	39	64	14	2	6	41	45	88	22	.315	.326

8 COY JAMES SS



HIT: 55. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 50. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: February 16, 2007. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 185.
Drafted: HS—Mocksville, NC, 2025 (5th round). **Signed by:** Bob Hamelin.

TRACK RECORD: James is a veteran of USA Baseball who played for the gold medal-winning 15U National Team in 2022 and for the 2023 18U National Team as an underclassman. As a senior in 2025 he won Gatorade North Carolina player of the year honors by hitting .605 with nine home runs for Davie County High. James had top-three rounds talent in the 2025 draft and wound up signing a bonus commensurate with a top 40 overall pick when the Nationals paid him $2.5 million in the fifth round. He worked out at the organization's West Palm Beach, Fla., complex after signing but did not get into an official game.

SCOUTING REPORT: James makes hitting look easy with a loose, whippy righthanded swing and an ability to find the barrel. He makes a ton of hard, line-drive contact with strong hand-eye coordination and a compact swing. James hits velocity and does a good job using all fields to keep defenses guessing. He should grow into 20-homer power based on his feel to hit and present strength, but he doesn't have much projection remaining in his 6-foot, 185-pound frame. James has sure hands in the batter's box and is a reliable shortstop, but he might be stretched to play the position professionally. He's an average runner with ordinary range in the field and an average arm that could be stretched on the left side of the infield. James' time at other positions should increase as he moves up the ladder.

THE FUTURE: Many scouts see James as a bat-first second or third baseman capable of hitting for average, getting on base and delivering average power. The Nationals will have to find playing time for a cadre of young shortstops in 2026 that also includes Luke Dickerson, Angel Feliz and 2025 first overall pick Eli Willits, so it wouldn't be surprising if James begins in the Florida Complex League.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Did not play															

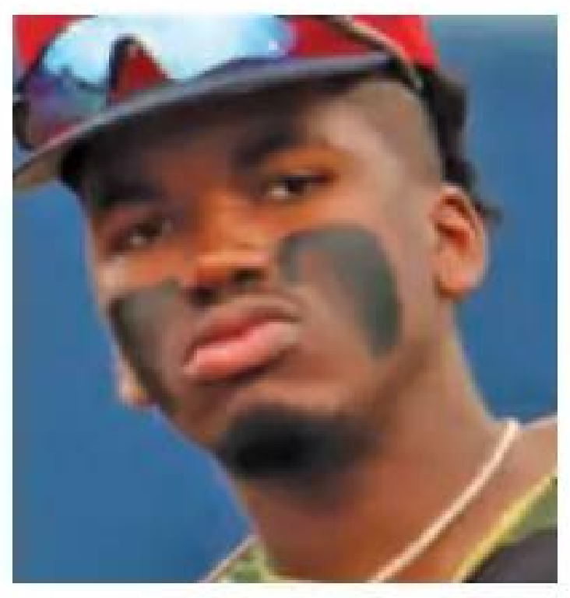
PROJECTED 2029 LINEUP

NUMBER AT RIGHT IS BASEBALL AGE IN 2029

No. 1 Starter	MacKenzie Gore	30
No. 2 Starter	Jarlin Susana	25
No. 3 Starter	Travis Sykora	25
No. 4 Starter	Alex Clemmey	23
No. 5 Starter	Jake Bennett	28
Closer	Cade Cavalli	30

Catcher	Keibert Ruiz	30
First Base	Brady House	26
Second Base	CJ Abrams	28
Third Base	Seaver King	26
Shortstop	Eli Willits	21
Left Field	Luke Dickerson	23
Center Field	Dylan Crews	27
Right Field	Daylen Lile	26
Designated Hitter	**James Wood**	26

9 ANGEL FELIZ SS



HIT: 50. **POW:** 50. **RUN:** 30. **FLD:** 50. **ARM:** 55. **BA Grade:** 50. **Risk:** High. **Adj:** 40.

Born: November 16, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 185.
Signed: Dominican Republic, 2024. **Signed by:** Bolivar Pelletier.

TRACK RECORD: The Nationals in recent years have had mixed results in international free agency. They have gotten limited production from Dominican shortstop Armando Cruz and Cuban outfielder Cristhian Vaquero, their top signees in 2021 and 2022, but players from the 2024 and 2025 signing classes offer hope. That includes Feliz, a Dominican shortstop who signed for $1.7 million in 2024. He played well in the Dominican Summer League in his debut, then turned in a fine season in the Florida Complex League in 2025. Feliz finished third in the FCL with 51 hits and seventh with 69 total bases before moving to Low-A Fredericksburg for 31 games to finish his season.

SCOUTING REPORT: Feliz is a strong-bodied, 6-foot-3 shortstop who hits the ball hard for a teenager. His tall, rangy frame could add more good weight as he matures, which, combined with his bat speed, gives him a chance to grow into above-average power. He competes in the box with a slightly open stance and tracks pitches well for his age. Feliz hits the ball where it's pitched on a line but must continue proving himself against velocity, especially on inside pitches. His ability to hit to all fields with authority suggests a future average hit tool or better. Feliz is a well below-average runner who has acceptable range at shortstop as a teenager but could outgrow the position as he matures. His above-average arm would fit at third base if he has to move, and he already has pro experience at second base.

THE FUTURE: Feliz can do a little bit of everything, except run, at a young age, but he risks falling into more of a reserve profile unless his power takes a step forward. The Nationals praise his leadership and poise, so they are optimistic that his game will develop.

Year	Age	Club	Level	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG
2025	18	Minors (2 teams)	Rk,A	.253	84	293	53	74	10	5	4	43	42	71	15	.346	.362

10 LANDON HARMON RHP

FB: 70. **SL:** 55. **CH:** 45. **CTL:** 50. **BA Grade:** 55. **Risk:** Extreme. **Adj:** 35.

Born: September 9, 2006. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-5. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS—Blue Springs, MS, 2025 (3rd round). **Signed by:** Tommy Jackson.

TRACK RECORD: Harmon threw the best fastball of any high school righthander in the 2025 draft class and trailed only lefthander Jack Bauer among all prep pitchers. Harmon helped pitch East Union High to a Mississippi 2A state title in 2025, the program's second in three years. He was committed to Mississippi State before he aligned with the Nationals in the third round and signed for $2.5 million, a bonus akin to a top-40 overall pick.

SCOUTING REPORT: Harmon is a projectable 6-foot-5 righthander with long limbs and a high-waisted frame. He is tall, lean and flexible with a loose arm that generates easy velocity. Harmon sits in the mid 90s and has been up to 98 mph with riding life and late cutting action to his glove side. His delivery is clean and repeatable, and he throws strikes from a three-quarters arm slot and slight crossfire landing. Harmon's fastball has double-plus potential and could top out at 100 mph one day, but his secondary pitches need more work. He throws a low-80s sweeper and a slider in the high 80s, both of which he can locate well for his age. Refining them into above-average pitches will be a key development goal. He occasionally throws a low-80s changeup that will be another point of emphasis. Adding strength to his frame and testing his stuff against professional hitters to see what needs to be tweaked are the next steps.

THE FUTURE: High school righthanders are among the most volatile draft commodities. Harmon has a great foundation for the Nationals to build upon, as they did with Travis Sykora from the 2023 draft, but it will be years before the righthander's full potential comes into focus. The Nationals will likely hold Harmon back in extended spring training, as they did Sykora, before assigning him to the Florida Complex League or Low-A Fredericksburg in 2026.

Year	Age	Club	Level	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	HR	BB	SO	HR/9	BB%	SO%	WHIP
2025	18	Did not play															

MIKE JANES/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (JAMES), RODGER WOOD/DIAMOND IMAGES VIA GETTY IMAGES (FELIZ), BILL MITCHELL (HARMON), MITCHELL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES (WOOD)

American League

ORGANIZATIO REPORTS

PAGE 56 Red Sox righthander Luis Perales returned from Tommy John surgery with 100 mph heat and revamped secondary pitches.

● *Mariners righthander Ryan Sloan impressed in his first professional season with elite control, a high-90s fastball and advanced maturity.* **PAGE 58**

NORM HALL/MLB PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES (PERALES); BILL MITCHELL (SLOAN)

Barnett Gets A Grip On A Key Pitch Type

From the moment **Mason Barnett** arrived with the Athletics at the 2024 trade deadline, he made an impression.

The righthander produced a 2.61 ERA with 52 strikeouts in 41.1 innings for Double-A Midland down the stretch in 2024 after coming over from the Royals in the **Lucas Erceg** trade.

The 24-year-old Barnett did not enjoy the same success in 2025. He ran up a 6.13 ERA in 119 innings for Triple-A Las Vegas and then allowed 17 earned runs in 22.1 big league innings after the A's called him up on Aug. 30.

Barnett is optimistic that better days are ahead based on a grip change to his sweeper. There is more sharpness to it, and its action and mid-80s velocity differentiates the pitch from his high-70s curveball.

His changeup also plays against lefthanded hitters.

Barnett's final start of the season was promising. Against the Royals, the club that drafted him out of Auburn in the third round in 2022, he admitted he was a little more "amped up." He struck out three in 5.2 innings, giving up three runs and walking two.

"I think it can kind of go for anybody to come in—you make sure that you're able to compete up here and having a few starts in and getting through some lineups," Barnett said. "It gives confidence going on that I can come back next year and keep doing it."

A's manager **Mark Kotsay** said he was impressed with the progress Barnett made this season and knows he "should be feeling great," heading into next season.

The Athletics' rotation next season is projected to be anchored by **Luis Severino** and **Jeffrey Springs**. Beyond those veterans there will be opportunities for young pitchers including Barnett and fellow prospect **Gunnar Hoglund** as well as 2025 rookies **Luis Morales**, **Jack Perkins**, **Jacob Lopez** and **J.T. Ginn**.

—JESSICA KLEINSCHMIDT

Orioles Bet Big On Dynamic Prep de Brun

When the Orioles dealt reliever **Bryan Baker** to the Rays for the 37th pick in the 2025 draft, just days before the event commenced, they added roughly $2.6 million to a $19 million bonus pool that was the highest in MLB this year.

Despite limited tools, Sam Antonacci brings on-base skills, instincts and a relentless approach to the White Sox's system.

That gave Baltimore the chance to make a big bet early in the draft.

They did so on **Slater de Brun**, an Oregon high school outfielder whom they selected with the 37th pick, a competitive balance Round A selection. The went well above slot to sign him for $4 million.

"There's no perfect player for anybody, but the closest who I like is **Corbin Carroll**," de Brun said. "I've been watching him for three years. When I started wanting to be like Corbin, I was a JV baseball player."

Now, he's a pro who went to the Orioles' complex in Sarasota, Fla., after signing and didn't participate in any official games. He was back in Florida for instructional camp, adding more strength to his 5-foot-9 frame and power to his lefthanded swing.

Orioles vice president of player development and scouting **Matt Blood** said after the draft that de Brun "can really run, play center field (and) make a ton of contact as well—a lot of line drives . . .

"He's another one of these contact guys who also walks. We feel like all those things combined give him a pretty good chance to have some success."

The Orioles have not drafted high school hitters often under president of baseball operations **Mike Elias**, but those they have taken have fared well. That list includes Baltimore shortstop **Gunnar Henderson** and second baseman **Jackson Holliday**.

It also includes **Coby Mayo**, who found his swing in September; Athletics infielder **Darell Hernaiz**; and Orioles prospect outfielder **Nate George**, the 16th-round pick in 2024 who broke out this year.

—JON MEOLI

Perales Picks Up Where He Left Off

In the midst of a breakout season in 2024, righthander **Luis Perales** suffered a torn UCL that required Tommy John surgery.

When he returned to action at the end of the 2025 minor league season, roughly 15 months after surgery, it remained apparent that the 22-year-old Perales possesses stuff matched by few in the Red Sox system.

Perales has a high-octane arsenal—albeit with the sort of control issues typically seen in pitchers returning from TJ. His fastball reaches triple digits, and he proved capable of getting swings and misses on his cutter, slider and splitter.

Perales had been in Double-A at the time of his injury, and made one appearance back in Portland before a pair of season-ending appearances for Triple-A Worcester.

His ability to work in the zone with his 97-101 mph fastball proved inconsistent in those initial outings and into the Arizona Fall League. That represents an obvious area of focus. So, too, will be his ability to land his splitter in or near the zone.

Perales overhauled his secondary pitches in 2024 to incorporate a splitter and cutter, while reshaping his slider. That was evidenced by his first career Triple-A outing in September, when he threw only cutters, sliders and splitters.

The righthander added considerable strength while rehabbing, and if he can throw enough strikes, his four-pitch arsenal gives him a chance to emerge as a midrotation starter or possibly a key reliever if the 6-foot-1 Perales does not address his control.

That sets him up to open 2026 in the Triple-A rotation, unless the Red Sox find it too tempting to have him open the year in the big league bullpen.

"It's been a long road," Perales said via translator after he reached Worcester. "I'm kind of surprised that I'm here, but I'm happy to be here."

—ALEX SPEIER

Antonacci Wows With Grinder Mentality

Some day, second baseman **Sam Antonacci** will put up the numbers that force everyone to take notice.

He hit .515 with 14 home runs in his second year at Heartland, a Division II junior college in Illinois, but needed to transfer to Coastal Carolina to draw more than token draft interest.

After Antonacci produced a 1.027 OPS for the Chanticleers, the White Sox drafted him in the fifth round in 2024—but even they couldn't honestly profess to see exceptional potential.

"Twelve months ago, we would all just have said, 'Interesting player. He plays hard, et cetera.' " White Sox farm director **Paul Janish** said. "But he's put himself on the map."

In his first full professional season, Antonacci posted a .433 on-base percentage that ranked fourth in the minor leagues, stole 48 bases and finished the year batting third for the Double-A Birmingham team that won the Southern League title.

"Oh, wow, what a grinder, what a competitor," said Birmingham manager **Guillermo Quiroz**, who has managed the Barons to back-to-back SL crowns.

The 22-year-old Antonacci has below-average raw power and an approach geared for contact. Such is his team-oriented, run-manufacturing nature that with a runner on third base, he chokes up on the bat, even when he's ahead in the count.

His future defensive home is to be determined. The White Sox concede that Antonacci's days at shortstop are all but over, and his below-average arm is not ideal at third base.

His stolen base totals are impressive for a player with average speed, but his range at second base is middling at best.

The White Sox sent Antonacci to the Arizona Fall League to prove his mettle. He envisions many more worlds to conquer beyond Glendale.

"At the end of the day, I don't want to be known as someone who played in the Arizona Fall League," he said. "I want to be known as an all-star and a World Series champion.

"There's a lot I've got to work on to get to that point. I'm ready to get after it."

—JAMES FEGAN

Halpin Showcases Speed And Defense

Two young Guardians players helped Cleveland clinch a postseason berth.

In a Sept. 27 game against the Rangers, Guardians rookie **C.J. Kayfus** was hit by a **Robert Garcia** pitch with the bases loaded, two outs and the score tied in the ninth inning to drive in the deciding run in a 3-2 Cleveland victory.

Scoring that walk-off run was 23-year-old center fielder **Petey Halpin**.

Halpin made his MLB debut on Sept. 20 and appeared in six games, serving mostly as a pinch-runner and defensive replacement. He went 2-for-6 at the plate.

In 126 games for Triple-A Columbus this season, he batted .249/.321/.414 with a 14 home runs and 15 stolen bases.

"Petey had a great developmental year, ultimately helping us win a division and compete in the postseason," Guardians GM **Mike Chernoff** said.

"He is a dynamic player who combines excellent speed with outstanding defense in both center field and the corners."

Drafted in the third round in 2020 out of a NorCal high school, Halpin spent a year at Low-A, a year at High-A and two years at Double-A Akron.

At 6 feet, 200 pounds, Halpin is a lefthanded batter who can hold his own at the plate and in the field.

"As this year went on, he took on an even more aggressive mindset with both his baserunning and his defense," Chernoff said. "That helped him translate his tools into on-field success in both areas."

Known for his speed, defense and maturing bat, center fielder Petey Halpin is emerging as a key piece for the Guardians.

Halpin has always been young for his level, but Chernoff said: "He has matured a lot as a hitter and started to refine his approach at the plate to allow him to tap into both his contact and impact skills."

Where Halpin ultimately lands as a hitter and defender remain to be seen. What is not up for debate, however, is his competitive nature.

"He has a strong motivation to keep improving, and we are excited about what his future can hold, especially after getting his first taste of the major leagues," Chernoff said.

—JIM INGRAHAM

Hard Work Pays Off For Pacheco

Third baseman **Izaac Pacheco** has never liked being told something can't be accomplished.

The Tigers' 2021 second-round pick out of Friendswood High in Texas has proven he is willing to exhaust every option before accepting anything but success.

That stems from a work ethic ingrained from an early age.

"Head down and keep working," Pacheco said, citing his high school coach **Cory Benavides**.

The 22-year-old Pacheco has spent the past three seasons at High-A West Michigan. This year, he broke through as the Midwest League MVP after hitting .258/.388/.499 with 17 home runs in 99 games.

Routine has always been a focal point for Pacheco, but he found additional inspiration from an MLB all-star.

"I watched a podcast with **Bobby Witt Jr.**, and he talked about journaling," Pacheco said. "I think he was the first guy I saw who was open about it and said he writes his affirmations and journals and brings the journal into the dugout.

"It made me think, 'Obviously, this guy is an incredible player,' so I wanted to do that too."

The journal became a daily practice for Pacheco—pages of personal affirmations, notes on opposing pitchers and takeaways from a rotation of mental skills books. Scouts took note of the differences.

"This was not the same kid I saw last year," one said. "He played tighter defensively. His swing was better. And he just looked like he understood his body. The kid grew up."

For Pacheco, the mental side of baseball holds as much value as the physical.

"I really never failed coming up to pro ball," Pacheco said. "I think it's a big realization to know that there are 10 guys behind you who want your spot. It's not about being scared of it, but wanting to put the work in, and that's who I am.

"My parents raised me to believe that if you want something, you have to work hard for it. If you want to be better than the people behind you, you've got to work harder than they do.

"It's pretty simple."

—EMILY WALDON

Blubaugh Works His Way Into 2026 Plans

AJ Blubaugh had an impressive cameo in the majors this year, and now he's firmly in the Astros' plans as an option for the 2026 rotation.

"Blubaugh certainly has a path where he can make some noise in the rotation," Astros GM **Dana Brown** says of the 6-foot-2, 190-pound righthander.

The 25-year-old Blubaugh added an exclamation point to his season with a career-high seven strikeouts in a Sept. 16 start.

Blubaugh finished with a 1.69 ERA with 35 strikeouts in 32 innings for Houston. More impressively, he finished the year with a 21-inning scoreless streak as the Astros battled for a playoff spot.

Interestingly enough, Blubaugh had much better numbers in the majors than he did at Triple-A Sugar Land, where he ran up a 5.27 ERA in 99 innings.

"AJ showed a ton of growth this year," Houston farm director **Jacob Buffa** said. "He came out of the gate throwing very well, with all offspeeds working. Over time, he saw his changeup performance decline.

"And where I credit him a ton was his tenacity in working to get it back, knowing he needed another secondary to be effective."

Brown notes that Blubaugh's command was a little better in his second of two stints in the majors, making his fastball more effective. He also mixes in a slider and changeup.

Blubaugh represented the Astros in the Futures Game in 2024. He has methodically climbed the ranks since Houston drafted him in the seventh round in 2022 out of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

He made his debut in the majors on April 30, giving up seven runs (two earned) with six strikeouts over four innings. The Astros sent Blubaugh back to Sugar Land after that start. He returned to the majors on Aug. 5.

"Then in the big leagues he was slotted into a short-stint role that really allowed him to let it eat and light up the radar gun, like we know he can," Buffa said. "It's a power arm and a very special kid."

—JOSE DE JESUS ORTIZ

TOM PRIDDY/FOUR SEAM IMAGES (ANTONACCI), STEPHEN MATUREN/GETTY IMAGES (HALPIN)

Causey Succeeds With Deceptive Arsenal

In an era in which successful pitchers throw in the mid-to-upper 90s, righthander **A.J. Causey** is thriving with a fastball sitting around 90 mph.

The 2024 fifth-round pick from Tennessee excelled in his first full professional season, split between High-A Quad Cities and Double-A Northwest Arkansas. At the two stops he recorded a 1.72 ERA with 75 strikeouts and 18 walks in 73.1 innings.

The key to the 23-year-old Causey's success is delivering his six-pitch arsenal with a sidearm delivery that provides deception and movement on all pitches.

Causey began throwing with the lower arm slot at the age of 13, when his coach realized the young pitcher might benefit by using a sidearm delivery because he didn't throw hard.

"He knew I was playing a lot of Wiffle ball," Causey said, "and so he said, 'I think you should try it.'"

He has been throwing sidearm ever since.

"He manipulates the baseball with his hand extremely well, creating the good horizontal run and lack of (vertical movement) on his sinker," said **Paul Gibson**, the Royals' senior director of pitching performance, adding that Causey's sweeper and changeup are quality out pitches.

Causey also benefits from his changeup and fastball coming out of the same slot.

"What he lacks in raw velocity," Gibson said, "he makes up for with huge metrics on all of his pitches."

Causey believes he can be successful regardless of the experience level of opposing hitters, provided that he consistently hits his spots, pitches to the corners and throws good sequences.

Major league teams like to have a diversity of arm slots in their bullpens, and Gibson sees Causey as being able to fill just that role before long.

—BILL MITCHELL

Davalillo Shows Foundational Skills

Catcher **Gabriel Davalillo** comes from a long line of baseball players from Venezuela.

His grandfather **Vic** played 16 seasons in the big leagues. His uncle **Pompeyo** was also a big leaguer. His father **David** spent five years in the minors with the Angels. His brother **David Jr.** is a righthander in the Rangers organization.

Following a strong offensive showing in his debut campaign, Gabriel looks to be the next Davalillo to carve out a successful career in professional baseball.

"He's grown up around the game, (which has) certainly benefited him and his career," Angels assistant GM **Joey Prebynski** said. "He has a great foundation with his family and the baseball background."

A bat-first catcher, Davalillo was the Angels' top international signee in 2025 at $2 million. He immediately exhibited his offensive prowess in the Dominican Summer League, slashing .302/.408/.518 with seven home runs in 41 games.

An aggressive hitter, Davalillo demonstrated the ability to hit for power with a 90th percentile exit velocity of 102.5 mph, while limiting his strikeout rate to 12.4%.

"He has a tremendous amount of offensive upside from a run-production standpoint," Prebynski said. "He does a great job of being able to control the zone. He has plate coverage and the ability to stay in the zone and stay on plane. There is natural rhythm and timing."

The Angels are less certain about the 17-year-old's future behind the plate.

Davalillo has an above-average arm, but his slow transfer held him back. He threw out just six of 34 DSL basestealers.

The Angels moved Davalillo to third base during instructional league to add versatility and manage his workload behind the plate. The plan is for him to split time between the two positions next season.

—TAYLOR BLAKE WARD

Gabriel Gonzalez produced a dominant season across three levels in the Twins' system, batting .329 with 15 home runs.

Gonzalez Rebounds With Breakout Season

Gabriel Gonzalez didn't make the first impression he wanted with the Twins last year. Not with a nagging back injury that zapped the power from his swing.

In his second season in the organization, the 21-year-old corner outfielder was determined to put himself in a better position. He spent much of the offseason at the Twins' Florida complex and got into better shape.

It all paid off this year when he ascended from High-A Cedar Rapids to Triple-A St. Paul. In 123 games, Gonzalez batted .329/.395/.513 with 15 home runs.

"He's someone who deserves a lot of credit for the work he put in during the offseason," Twins farm director **Drew MacPhail** said. "The year he had really raking across three levels probably was our best overall offensive performance."

When the Twins acquired Gonzalez in the January 2024 **Jorge Polanco** trade, they saw him as a bat-first prospect with an innate ability to make contact. They just wanted him to remain focused on not expanding the strike zone, even if he could still touch many of those pitches.

"When we acquired him originally, it was someone we knew who didn't strike out a lot," Twins GM **Jeremy Zoll** said. "You're hopeful to improve his swing decisions a bit. That's been the heavy focus of his training since he's been in the organization is just reducing that chase."

Gonzalez opened the season with an .824 OPS in High-A as he repeated the Midwest League.

"Double-A early, he wasn't showing a ton of power," Zoll said. "He was collecting a ton of hits, and then the doubles and homers started to come as that went on."

The Twins are expected to add Gonzalez to their 40-man roster this winter, protecting him from the Rule 5 draft.

—BOBBY NIGHTENGALE

Jones Powers Up With Setup Adjustment

Spencer Jones finished second in the minor leagues with 35 home runs. He also placed second with 179 strikeouts.

It was something of a mixed bag of a season for the 6-foot-7, 240-pound center fielder, whom the Yankees drafted out of Vanderbilt in the first round in 2019.

Despite the highs and lows, the 24-year-old Jones' output represented a vast improvement from his 2024 season, and it was at Double-A Somerset where things started to trend upward.

Jones adjusted his hitting setup by using a much more open stance that allows his hips to be in a better position to start, but it turns out that the aesthetic changes were mostly just that.

"It's funny, it looks very different, but it wasn't that much different," first-year Somerset hitting coach **Mike Fransoso** said.

"When you really dive into the how his swing was actually unfolding, it wasn't a ton different from where it really was in spring, to where it was those first few weeks here, when he really opened up, which made it look incredibly different.

"It wasn't a new swing. The setup added a level of comfort . . . it allowed the swing he has naturally to unfold. A lot of people got caught up in what it looks like to the eye before he starts moving."

Regardless, in Somerset Jones was finally able to unlock his in-game power, hitting 16 home runs in just 49 games before a late-June promotion to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Jones hit 19 more homers in 67 International League games, using lessons learned in swing mechanics and also in finally mastering Double-A after spending all of 2024 at the level.

"Sure, there were some tweaks within the swing and maybe flattening a little and not as uphill," Fransoso said, "but the setup was the main part."

—MIKE ASHMORE

Sloan Impresses With Preparation

When he toed the rubber for his first start with High-A Everett, 19-year-old righthander **Ryan Sloan** couldn't have made a better first impression.

Sloan threw a strike on each of his first 17 pitches that outing and ended the day with 42 strikes against just 10 balls, showcasing the elite control that led the Mariners to draft the Illinois prep in the 2024 second round.

In 82 innings between Low-A Modesto and Everett, Sloan had 90 strikeouts and just 15 walks before his season ended in early September due to eye surgery.

"It's very, very cool to see," Everett manager **Zach Vincej** said. "It shows his talent level. It shows his mentality of going after hitters and trusting in his abilities—and trusting in his stuff."

Sloan averaged around 40 innings per season in high school, so the Mariners kept his workload fairly light this year. Sloan threw into the fifth inning three times and exceeded 70 pitches only once.

Next year, they plan to bump his innings total to 100 or more, while continuing to add pitches to his already superb mix that features a high-90s fastball and above-average changeup and slider.

The Mariners have been impressed with Sloan's attitude in addition to his talent.

"A big thing that separates him is his maturity for his age," Mariners pitching coordinator **Quinn Cleary** said.

"The level of preparation he brings to each day, and the level of intent and focus he has with what he's doing in game—but also in terms of the day to day."

The Mariners see something special in Sloan that made them comfortable investing $3 million into such a young pitcher.

"There's definitely risk with a young high school kid like Ryan," Cleary said. "Every scout who saw him . . . just came away incredibly impressed with the operation, whether it was the velo or whether it was the command."

—SHANE LANTZ

Bush Shows Well-Rounded Game

Homer Bush Jr. has the tools to do a lot of things really well, and the Rays have been pleased with him since acquiring him in July 2024 from the Padres as part of the return for reliever **Jason Adam**.

The 24-year-old Bush gets on base. He hits for average. He steals bases. He plays a strong center field.

He showcased all those skills while spending the entire season at Double-A Montgomery and hitting .301/.375/.360 with 57 stolen bases in 121 games.

"Homer quietly put together a very solid season this year for us," Rays assistant GM **Kevin Ibach** said.

"He's just a very well-rounded player who is also a leader in the clubhouse. Offensively, he has shown the consistent ability to get on base. The stolen base numbers obviously stand out, but the elite speed can impact the game in so many ways.

"He's a gifted center fielder with more reps on the grass than **Chandler** (**Simpson**) had at the same level, for example. So we feel very comfortable about the defensive floor at the end of the day."

The one thing the 6-foot-2, 215-pound Bush hasn't done yet is hit for power, despite having the build of a football player.

He hit zero home runs in 2025 and has slugged just .373 in three pro seasons since being drafted by San Diego in the fourth round in 2023 out of Grand Canyon.

"You look at his body, and he wouldn't look out of place playing (for the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers)," Ibach said. "So while the impact hasn't quite shown up in the offensive stat line, there's optimism about some untapped power potential."

Bush is the son of the former big leaguer of the same name.

—MARC TOPKIN

Jose Corniell used rehab time to enhance his physical and mental strength as he eyes a prominent role for the Rangers.

Corniell Comes Back Strong From Surgery

Righthander **Jose Corniell** had a memorable MLB debut in the Rangers' season finale. He struck out the first batter he faced in a scoreless inning and was handed a three-run lead to finish off what would be his first career victory.

But the bottom fell out at Progressive Field as the Guardians scored four times in the 10th inning to clinch the American League Central with a walk-off win.

Corniell walked off the mound defeated, but his 2025 was a win.

He finished his rehab from Tommy John surgery, dominated in the minor leagues and reached the majors. The 22-year-old then pitched in the Arizona Fall League.

All that points to Corniell making a bigger contribution with the Rangers in 2026.

"He just seems mature beyond his years," former Rangers manager **Bruce Bochy** said, "as far as pitching, good command and good secondary pitches he can throw for strikes at any time. It's important for him to get a taste for next year."

Corniell was injured in the spring of 2024, when he made his first appearance in Cactus League action. He was one of the surprises of camp, and Bochy expected Corniell to contribute during the regular season.

His elbow gave way, though, and he entered the difficult rehab process from Tommy John surgery. The process yielded enhanced physical strength and velocity as well as additional mental strength.

"I had to be mentally strong and come back to do what I needed to do," Corniell said. "I think it's helped me in the long run to be prepared for what's ahead."

Corniell came to Texas from the Mariners, who signed him from the Dominican Republic for $630,000 before trading him in late 2020 in a deal for **Rafael Montero**.

Corniell throws three different fastballs and a changeup, but his best secondary offering is his slider. The arsenal overwhelmed minor leaguers in 2025 to the tune of a 1.89 ERA and 41 strikeouts in 38 innings across two levels.

—JEFF WILSON

Jays Make First Foray Into Korea With Moon

Back in January, the Blue Jays' pursuit of **Roki Sasaki** prompted them to take on $11 million of the money owed to **Myles Straw** in order to get $2 million in international bonus pool space from the Guardians.

While Toronto did not sign the Japanese sensation, who opted for Dodgers, Straw became a valuable extra outfielder for the American League champions, while the extra pool money landed them intriguing South Korean righthander **Seojun Moon**.

The 18-year-old signed for $1.5 million in September and was the Blue Jays' first significant foray into the Korean amateur market.

Moon is 6-foot-4 and features a low-90s fastball that has been up to 95 mph, while also throwing a changeup, curveball, slider and sinker.

He may be raw, but the Blue Jays aim to develop him as a starter.

"Mentally, I feel pretty confident in my own ability," Moon said in comments interpreted by pro scouting manager Bryan Lee. "Physically, I still need to grow and get stronger and throw harder. So I want to just get better at every component of my game."

He chose to do that with the Blue Jays rather than entering the Korea Baseball Organization draft because "as a young child, I've always dreamed of pitching at the big league level," Moon said, "so I decided to make this choice now instead of later.

"This is where the best players play."

The Blue Jays intended to have him take part in some of their fall development camps.

"It's my first time seeing such a big stadium," Moon said. "It actually motivates me more so I could be here some day."

—SHI DAVIDI

PAUL R. GIERHART (GONZALEZ), CHRIS CODUTO/MLB PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES (CORNIELL)

In Memoriam

MIKE GREENWELL EXTENDED LINE OF GREAT RED SOX LEFT FIELDERS

Two-time Red Sox all-star left fielder Mike Greenwell died of thyroid cancer on Oct. 9 in Boston. He was 62.

Greenwell played his entire 12-year MLB career with the Red Sox and spent one season with Hanshin in Japan in 1997 before retiring.

Boston drafted Greenwell in the third round in 1982 out of high school in North Fort Myers, Fla., and his Florida upbringing helped earn him the nickname "Gator."

Greenwell received MLB cups of coffee in 1985 and '86 before earning a regular role for the 1987 Red Sox, alongside fellow rookie phenom outfielder Ellis Burks.

As a 23-year-old rookie, Greenwell batted .328/.386/.570 with 19 home runs and 31 doubles in the supercharged 1987 offensive environment. He struck out just 40 times in 125 games and finished fourth in American League Rookie of the Year voting.

Greenwell upped the ante in 1988, when he finished second in AL MVP voting to the Athletics' Jose Canseco, who had authored the first 40-40 season in MLB history. The sweet-swinging Greenwell hit .325/.416/.531 with 22 homers, 39 doubles, 16 stolen bases and 119 RBIs as the primary cleanup hitter for the AL East division-winning Red Sox.

Greenwell made the AL all-star team in both 1988 and '89, helping to reinforce the incredible line of succession in front of Fenway Park's Green Monster. From 1939 to 1996, left field in Boston was patrolled by Hall of Famers Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski and Jim Rice, followed by Greenwell.

He appeared in the postseason for four Red Sox teams: the 1986 AL pennant winners and the division-winning 1988, 1990 and 1995 teams. In 12 seasons, he batted .303/.368/.463 with 130 home runs in 1,269 games. He drew 460 walks against 364 strikeouts and was renowned for his sweet lefthanded swing.

After his playing career, Greenwell was involved briefly as a coach in the Reds system and also raced stock cars and pickup trucks competitively. He served as Lee County commissioner beginning in 2022 and owned several Florida-based businesses.

Greenwell's son Bo was drafted by Cleveland in the sixth round in 2007 and played his way to Double-A before calling it a career. His other son Garrett played collegiately. Both played for their father at Riverdale High in Fort Myers. ■

Sandy Alomar

Sandy Alomar, a longtime major league player and coach and the father of big league stars Sandy Jr. and Roberto Alomar, died on Oct. 13 in Salinas, P.R. He was 81.

Alomar spent 15 seasons in MLB as a slick-fielding, light-hitting second baseman. The switch-hitter played for six teams, but is best known for his time for his six seasons for the Angels—he was an American League all-star in 1970—and three seasons for the Yankees, for whom he was a utility infielder for the 1976 AL pennant winners.

Alomar batted .245/.290/.288 with 13 home runs and 227 stolen bases in 1,481 career games.

After his playing days, Alomar coached in the minor leagues and MLB for the Padres, Cubs, Rockies and Mets. In 1985, he coached both his sons at the Padres' Low-A Charleston affiliate.

Alomar signed professionally in 1960 and coached his last game in 2009, a span of 50 seasons.

Jim Clancy

Righthander Jim Clancy was a workhorse starter for the ascending 1980s Blue Jays. He died on July 12 at his home in Dunedin, Fla. He was 69.

Toronto chose Clancy from the Rangers in the 1976 expansion draft. He made 13 starts for the Blue Jays in their inaugural season of 1977 and continued taking the ball throughout his Toronto tenure. No pitcher started more games for the Blue Jays through his final season in Toronto in 1988.

Clancy made the 1982 American League all-star team in a season in which he made 40 starts and went 16-14 with a 3.71 ERA for a mediocre Blue Jays team that was building toward AL East division titles in 1985 and 1989.

In 15 MLB seasons for three clubs, Clancy went 140-167 with a 4.23 ERA that was right around league average.

He made one relief appearance for Toronto in the 1985 ALCS and later relieved for the National League pennant-winning 1991 Braves.

Randy Moffitt

Righthander Randy Moffitt spent 12 seasons as a major league reliever, primarily for the 1970s Giants. He died Aug. 28 in Long Beach. He was 76.

The Giants drafted Moffitt out of Long Beach State in the first round of the January phase of the 1970 draft. He reached San Francisco two years later as a reliever, appearing in 40 games. Moffitt spent his first 10 seasons with the Giants and still ranks among the franchise's top 10 all time with 83 saves and 459 appearances.

Moffitt's sister is tennis icon Billie Jean King.

Rob Mallicoat

Lefthander Rob Mallicoat, who made 51 career relief appearances for the 1987, 1991 and 1992 Astros, died Oct. 19. He was 60.

The Astros drafted Mallicoat in the first round of the 1984 January secondary draft out of Taft Junior College in California. He ranked as Houston's No. 1 prospect heading into 1986. ■

JESUS MONTERO ONCE RANKED AS AN ELITE PROSPECT

Jesus Montero ranked as the No. 3 prospect in baseball heading into the 2011 season. Scouts thought that the powerful, righthanded-hitting catcher had the type of opposite-field power that would play in Yankee Stadium.

While Montero popped 18 home runs as a 21-year-old at Triple-A that season, and then four more for the Yankees as a September callup, it wasn't enough to keep him in pinstripes.

Traded to the Mariners in January 2012 for Michael Piñeda, Montero ranked No. 6 overall heading into that season. It would be his first—and only—full season in the big leagues. He batted .260/.298/.386 with 15 homers in 135 games for Seattle, but he started more games at DH than catcher, the first sign that he would need to really hit to have staying power.

Montero struggled with all facets of catching, due in part to his bulky 6-foot-3 frame, and he started just 83 games behind the plate in parts of five MLB seasons. He spent most of his time at DH and first base, batting .253/.295/.398 with 28 homers in 226 games.

Montero spent partial seasons with the Mariners in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Seattle waived him during spring training 2016. The Blue Jays claimed him and sent him to Triple-A for the season.

He served 50-game suspensions in 2013 for his link to Biogenesis and again in 2016 when he tested positive for a banned substance.

Montero played in the Mexican League in 2017 and 2018 and in the winter Venezuelan League through 2021.

The Yankees signed Montero out of Venezuela in 2006. He died in his home country on Oct. 19 when he was involved in a motorcycle collision. He was 35. ■

FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES (GREENWELL), OTTO GREULE JR/GETTY IMAGES (MONTERO)

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The Mets managed Nolan McLean's time to keep him a rookie in 2026.

EVAN YU/MLB PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES

PERSPECTIVE

AT YOUR SERVICE

For the first time, Baseball America is factoring MLB service time into prospect eligibility

J.J. COOPER
@JJCOOP36

Rookie status in MLB is more complicated than it is in the other American major sports leagues.

A player can have MLB experience in multiple seasons and still qualify as a rookie. Rookie status in baseball is dependent on various thresholds of playing time and service time.

The most straightforward ways for an MLB player to exhaust rookie eligibility are as follows:

■ A position player exceeds 130 career major league at-bats.

■ A pitcher logs more than 50 career major league innings.

These playing time thresholds are frequently met in one season, but not always. Either way, it's easy for fans to discern which players have crossed 130 at-bats or 50 innings.

Where rookie status gets complicated is when MLB service time comes into play.

■ Any player who exceeds 45 days of *active* MLB service in his career will no longer carry rookie status into the following season, regardless of his total at-bats or innings.

Each day in the big leagues equals one day of service. Time spent on the injured list also counts as MLB service and advances a player's journey to arbitration eligibility and, ultimately, to free agency.

However, time spent on the IL is not counted as *active* service, and only active service affects rookie status.

Many permutations go into determining service time and active service time for MLB players. Unfortunately, there is no official record of service time to help sort things out.

Because Baseball America begins its offseason prospect rankings immediately after the MLB season ends, and no official record of service time exists, we have always ignored it with regard to eligibility for our prospect rankings.

We worried about incorrectly calculating a player's service time and either leaving a player off the list by mistake or writing up a player who had actually exceeded the active service limit of 45 days.

As such, BA has always stuck with the at-bats and innings limits when determining prospect status.

Until now.

With the help of Ethan Hullihen, we have independently generated the full—and, as best as we can determine, accurate—listing of active service time for every rookie and graduated rookie in 2025.

So, beginning with our 2026 prospect rankings, we will account for service time to exclude players who have exceeded the rookie limits.

Here is a look at prospects who graduated solely based on service time who would have remained prospect-eligible otherwise.

JUST GRADUATED

These players have not exceeded 130 AB or 50 IP in their careers, but they have more than 45 days of active service.

Player, Pos.	Team	Service	AB	IP
Mick Abel, RHP	Twins	49	—	39
Chase Burns, RHP	Reds	67	—	43.1
Caden Dana, RHP	Angels	46	—	42.2
Cody Freeman, 3B	Rangers	50	114	—
Drew Gilbert, OF	Giants	52	100	—
C.J. Kayfus, 1B	Guardians	58	123	—
Jordan Lawlar, SS	D-backs	73	97	—
Marcelo Mayer, SS	Red Sox	58	127	—
Luis Mey, RHP	Reds	55	—	21
Pierson Ohl, RHP	Twins	48	—	30

PLAYED REGULARLY, BUT RETAIN ROOKIE STATUS

These prominent prospects saw significant playing time–more than 30 days of active service–but did not exceed 130 AB or 50 IP.

Player, Pos	Team	Service	AB	IP
Samuel Basallo, C	Orioles	43	109	—
Dylan Beavers, OF	Orioles	44	110	—
Bubba Chandler, RHP	Pirates	38	—	31.1
Nolan McLean, RHP	Mets	44	—	48
Jacob Melton, OF	Astros	45	70	—
Jonah Tong, RHP	Mets	31	—	18.2
Payton Tolle, LHP	Red Sox	31	—	16.1
Carson Williams, SS	Rays	39	99	—
Nick Yorke, 2B	Pirates	42	106	—

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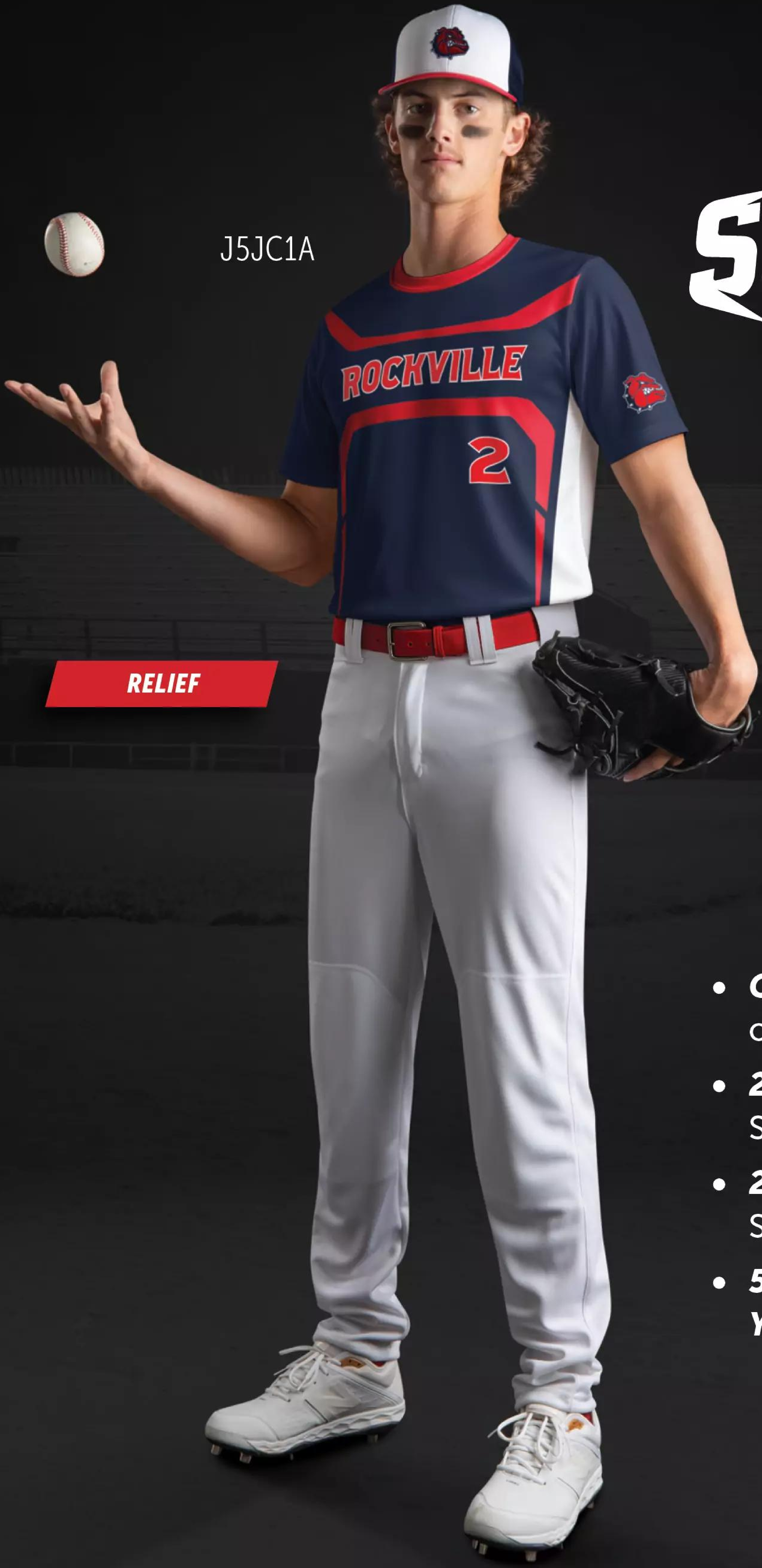

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